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THE TIMES

No. 65,050

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3 1994

Lilley hails 'courage under pressure'

Beleaguered director of CSA resigns

By JEREMY LAURANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE chief executive of the Child Support Agency resigned yesterday after 18 turbulent months, saying she had had enough.

Ros Hepplewhite, 42, who launched the agency in April last year, said she was stepping down "from what has been an exceptionally demanding post".

The agency, set up to recover maintenance payments from absent fathers, has been beset by controversy and the post of director has come to be regarded as one of the most uncomfortable in public life. The CSA has been accused of hounding fathers for payments, pushing them to the brink of penury, and of causing suicides. Staff have been sent razor blades, hypodermic needles and excrement.

In her resignation letter to Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, Mrs Hepplewhite spoke of the "inevitable problems" that arise from making major social policy changes. "I am hopeful that the new arrangements will, in time, benefit many families and be more widely recognised as an important and necessary innovation," she wrote.

Mrs Hepplewhite, who was appointed three years ago to help set up the agency, will be replaced immediately by Ann



Hepplewhite: "Job was exceptionally demanding"

Chant, a career civil servant who runs the social security Contributions Agency.

Mr Lilley paid tribute to Mrs Hepplewhite's "courage and dedication" in the face of "exceptional pressures" and promised to help her find a new post "to continue to contribute to the development of social security matters".

Mrs Hepplewhite presided over a series of public relations disasters in which maintenance demands were sent to the deceased, to "fathers" who had never met the mothers, or men were ordered to pay sums that exceeded their gross incomes. The agency was criticised for turning social policy into a punitive measure.

The CSA's first annual re-

port, published in July, showed that it had fallen £12 million short of its savings target of £530 million. Critics said the high target, set by the Treasury, forced the agency to target middle-class men. A leaked memorandum, which revealed that the agency had put priority on 250,000 fathers who were already making maintenance payments, said: "The game of the game is maximising the yield. Don't waste time on the non-profitable stuff."

Mrs Hepplewhite admitted in the annual report that agency standards were "unacceptable" and publicly apologised for "the difficulties our clients have experienced because of our shortcomings".

The retrospective powers of the agency, which have allowed it to overturn "clean break" settlements agreed by the courts, have also been criticised as unfair. The chief executive's resignation will create an opportunity for reform that is widely expected after the Social Security Select Committee reports in the autumn. Some changes were made last May.

Ministers have called in business advisers and are believed to be considering a fundamental overhaul of the senior management structure. The Government raised the agency's budget for next year by £70 million to £184 million and the CSA is to cut its workload.

Ministers believe, however, that the principle of recovering payments from absent fathers is sound. The number of lone parents receiving income support almost trebled from 395,000 in 1979 to 895,000 in 1991, but the proportion receiving maintenance fell from 50 per cent to 23 per cent.

Donald Dewar, Labour's shadow Social Security Secretary, said: "The CSA is again plunged into crisis. Ros Hepplewhite's departure can be nothing less than a recognition of the public anger and concern about a system that has gone badly wrong."

He said the agency had failed to achieve its financial and social targets, and had not helped children. "There must be a more flexible financial system, and independent appeals system and a proper recognition of clean-break settlements," he said.

The National Council for One Parent Families called for increased pressure to ensure that absent fathers honoured maintenance demands. Eight out of ten lone parents who wanted maintenance payments were not receiving anything, the council claimed.

Sally Withers, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said Mrs Hepplewhite had been given an impossible task. "The problem is to do with the Child Support Agency and not the person charged with delivering it."

Woman in the news, page 5



Fiona Castle announcing the death of her husband Roy, the entertainer, who lost his two-and-a-half year battle against cancer early yesterday. Mrs Castle, who was with him when he died, said that she wanted him to be remembered with happiness. "No flowers, no fuss, no mourning, just lots of joy." Page 5. Obituary, page 17

Adams wants to restore no-go areas for security forces

By NICHOLAS WATT, RICHARD FORD
AND PHILIP WEBSTER

GERRY Adams yesterday called on the Government to withdraw the army and police from nationalist areas of Northern Ireland, raising memories of the infamous "no-go areas" of the 1970s.

At a packed press conference in Dublin, the Sinn Féin president made some of his harshest comments since the IRA ceasefire was declared on Wednesday. Sitting beside Martin McGuinness, the leading Sinn Féin member who provides his party's strongest link to the IRA, Mr Adams said: "Crown forces, including the RUC, are not acceptable in nationalist areas. There should be an end to raids, searches and arrests."

His ideas were immediately rejected by Unionists who accused Mr Adams of reciting a familiar agenda. Even some nationalists would not want the RUC to be pulled off their streets because they are afraid of Loyalist attacks.

Mr Adams demanded a "monitoring facility" to record the activities of Loyalist paramilitaries during the ceasefire. This could be based on the incident centres which were set up in nationalist areas of Belfast during the last IRA ceasefire in 1975.

His comments came after Loyalist paramilitaries murdered a Roman Catholic man in north Belfast in the first shooting since the IRA's truce announcement. In a deliberate attempt to provoke elements in the IRA to break the ceasefire a gunman from the outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters shot John O'Hanlon, 32.

After the attack Michael Ancram, the political development minister at the Northern

Ireland Office, issued a warning that the Government determined to crack down on terrorism. "We will continue to pursue those who commit crimes of this sort."

Mr Adams outlined a list of demands which will form the basis of Sinn Féin's negotiating stance in any talks on the future of Northern Ireland. "All forms of repressive legislation should be scrapped," he said. "Irish political prisoners in Britain should be transferred home immediately."

Downing Street was last night still studying the clarification from Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness over the confusion which arose from

President Clinton has pledged to do all he can to help rebuild Ulster and bolster peace. Page 2

Letters, page 15

the IRA ceasefire statement. The Provisionals announced a "complete cessation of military operations". This fell short of the stipulation in last December's Downing Street Declaration. Officials in Downing Street declined to state that the countdown to talks with Sinn Féin had started, but there was a more relaxed attitude to the precise ceasefire terms.

Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, said in Dublin last night he hoped to meet Mr Adams within the next two weeks. Mr Reynolds will hold a series of meetings with political leaders to lay the groundwork for his Forum for Peace and Reconciliation.

New chief started work as a tea-girl

By PAUL WILKINSON

ANN Chant, 49, the new head of the Child Support Agency, comes from a very different background to the privately schooled, Oxbridge-educated high-flyers around her in the Civil Service.

She began her career in 1963, two days after her 18th birthday, making tea and filing papers in the offices of the old National Assistance Board in Lincoln where her elder sister Pat worked and had got her part-time job.

She had hoped to follow the well-trodden path to university on leaving her local grammar school, the Blackpool Collegiate School for Girls, where she had reached the lofty post of cycle monitor, but after A-levels decided on another direction.

The Lincoln job was supposed to be a fill-in until something else came along, but it seemed not to have done



Chant: "from a good northern grammar"

so. She later told an old girls' dinner that she had never regretted missing university, believing the education she had received at "a good northern grammar school" fitted her for anything. It had stressed self-discipline and service to others. Working her way up the Civil Service had shown her many aspects of life and the job she would never have seen as an academic high-flyer coming in at the top.

Journalists who have interviewed her describe Miss Chant as "amiable", but inside her department she is respected for her managerial acumen. Since moving in 1991 to Newcastle upon Tyne to head the contributions agency she has involved herself in the city's cultural activities.

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Bargain classics hit Penguin

By NEIL BENNETT
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

THE £1 classic novel may be a blessing to impoverished students and bored airline passengers but it is causing a headache to one of the grandest houses of publishing. Pearson, the company which owns the *Financial Times* and *Madame Tussauds*, has revealed that the coming of the £1 classic has left a nasty dent in its bottom line.

The group's books division, which runs Penguin and Longman, two of the best-known names in British publishing suffered a £7 million loss in the first half of the year as the company struggled to compete with a flood of cheap Dickens, Austen and Eliot coming from new rivals.

For years Penguin has rung up handsome profits from its range of classics, for which it rarely pays royalties but still manages to sell for £5 or more a time. That was until the recent arrival of Wordsworth and its £1 paperbacks.

Pearson results, page 19



Baron saves Three Graces

BARON Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, owner of the world's most important art collection after the Queen, has stepped forward with the money needed to save Canova's *Three Graces*, above, from going to the Getty Museum in California.

Luc Hafner, a Swiss lawyer who is representing Fine Art Investments & Display, said that faced with a marching offer, he would have to consider it seriously. He added that he was likely to take up the offer.

Warwicks on way to clean sweep

By MARCUS WILLIAMS

WARWICKSHIRE yesterday trounced Hampshire to win the county championship, the second leg in their drive for a unique clean sweep of all four main county competitions.

They won the Benson and Hedges Cup final by six wickets against Worcestershire in July to secure their first title. With yesterday's Britannic Assurance triumph they will be flat out at Lord's today when they again play Worcestershire, this time in the NatWest Trophy final.

The last leg of their quest will be the AXA Equity & Law Sunday league, in which they have a two-point lead. Warwickshire beat Hampshire by an innings and 95 runs at Edgbaston yesterday, hours after the England selectors revealed their hand for the winter tour of Australia. Old hands, Mike Gatting, 37, and Graham Gooch, 41, are both in the 16-man party but not Angus Fraser, deemed to have lost his edge.

Warwickshire win, page 35
England's choice, page 36

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Girls trounce the boys in examination league table

By JOHN O'LEARY AND BEN PRESTON

GIRLS' schools have forged ahead in the Times GCSE league table, taking an unprecedented 18 of the top 20 places in the annual ranking of more than 500 leading state and independent schools.

Withington Girls' School, in Manchester, recorded the best performance of the summer. Almost half of the 71 girls' entries were awarded the new starred A grade for outstanding

academic achievement and 86 per cent were As. The only boys to make the top ten were at St Paul's School, in London. Single-sex schools filled all of the top positions in the first analysis of state and independent schools' results.

The growing dominance of girls' schools prompted calls for action to tackle the disparity of achievement between the sexes at 16. Michael Barber, professor of education at Keele University, said: "It is hard to avoid the impression that very soon

the boys won't be able to see the girls for the dust they kick up as they accelerate into the distance." He said: "Ten years of equal opportunities has focused on raising the standards achieved by girls, and has proved brilliantly successful. Now the time has come to do a similar job for boys."

Janette Elwood, an academic at Leicester University researching girls' examination performance, predicted that the historic lead held by boys at A-level was likely to end soon. She said:

"The group of girls who took GCSEs this summer will make it almost neck-and-neck with boys by the time they take A-levels in two years."

Margaret Kenyon, Withington's headmistress, said: "Obviously, girls are likely to do better than boys at 16 because they just are more focused and hard-working. As the mother of sons, I know that to be true."

League table, page 9
Leading article, page 15

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Clinton offers help but stops short of pledging more hard cash

exclusive 25-acre estate where he and his family have stayed for the past week.

His aides arranged the perfect photo opportunity, guaranteed to feature on all the evening news shows. It was a brilliant sunny day, and after Mr Spring's arrival Mr Clinton led him round to the front of a picturesque weatherboarded cottage. There the two men, casually dressed, stood and enjoyed a glorious view of the distant sea as the cameras whirled. It was a world away from the streets of Belfast.

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World's biggest law firm to appeal Secretary awarded record £4.6m for sexual harassment

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN
NEW YORK

A SECRETARY who accused a partner in the world's largest law firm of sexual harassment has won \$7.1 million (£4.6 million) in punitive damages, the largest award in such a case and more than twice the sum she demanded.

Rena Weeks, 40, worked for less than two months as a secretary for Baker & McKenzie in Palo Alto, California. She claimed she was fondled and subjected to suggestive remarks by Martin Greenstein, 49, a partner in the firm.

A jury at a court in San Francisco found that the law firm knew of Mr Greenstein's behaviour but did nothing to stop it, despite a number of similar complaints from other female employees.

Ms Weeks was awarded \$50,000 in compensatory damages last month, when her allegations of harassment were found proved, but \$6.9 million in punitive damages from the firm in a verdict that was clearly intended as a warning to other American firms.

Mr Greenstein, who has left Baker & McKenzie after 22 years to set up his own law firm, was ordered personally to pay \$225,000 punitive damages.

Six women gave evidence about sexual harassment at the firm and Philip Kay, Ms Weeks's lawyer, who had requested \$3.5 million damages, said that the size of the award clearly indicated that the jury understood "the gravity of the situation".



Rena Weeks smiling in court after her award

"The law firm had a responsibility to its women and absolutely turned it away," Mr Kay said.

One member of the six-man six-woman jury said the amount had been calculated as a tenth of Baker & McKenzie's capital.

Lawyers for the Chicago-based firm, which had a gross income of \$512 million last year, described the verdict as extremely disappointing and said that there would be an appeal.

John McGuigan, chairman of the firm's executive committee, said: "Baker & McKenzie has always respected the values of people of all beliefs and backgrounds, and rejects the implication that it tolerates personal or professional misconduct of any type."

He added that radical steps

had been taken to improve working relationships among staff since Ms Weeks launched her claim.

Bill Carpenter, one of the jurors, said that the firm seemed to have taken up fighting sexual harassment with a fervour that was almost religious. "When you get religion, you should pay a tithe," he said.

Mr Greenstein, who was paid more than \$300,000 a year by Baker & McKenzie, agreed to resign last year at the urging of his colleagues. He admitted making offensive remarks to two other secretaries but denied harassing Ms Weeks.

His lawyer said that the divorced father of four was undergoing psychological treatment to improve his attitude towards female colleagues.

A tearful Ms Weeks, who has become a teacher, said after the case: "I hope it never happens again, but if it does, I'd do the same thing." She added: "I've got my rights, my civil rights, like everybody has."

Women's groups in the US applauded the verdict and said the record-breaking award would force other highly paid legal professionals and business executives to realise they could not mistreat lower-level employees.

"I would read it as law firms are not allowed to ignore the law, so it's a comment on hypocrisy," Fredda Klein, who runs a consultancy service for businesses on issues of sexual harassment, said after Thursday's verdict.

Shop raid victim was planning anniversary

By Bill Frost

A MAN shot dead during a raid on a jeweller's shop had been planning his twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on the day he was murdered, his brother said yesterday.

Lee Hoppie, 46, was servicing security video equipment at RSA Jewellers in Ilford, east London, when the robbery took place on Thursday afternoon.

Six men gave evidence yesterday that his brother's widow and three children were speechless with grief. "They are completely unable to understand why this senseless killing took place,"

He said Mr Hoppie, who ran a security business in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, had been planning a party to celebrate his twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on the day he was murdered. "This has left his widow totally numb, and his son and two daughters cannot believe what has happened," he said.

The owner of the shop, who declined to give his name for "security reasons", said yes-



Lee Hoppie servicing the security camera

terday that two young men had asked to look at bracelets. They said they would return after getting money from a nearby bank.

"They came back after 15 minutes. Then the third man came. He asked for a watch from the window. My son was just going to open the window when the man pulled out a gun. He asked the two of them to lie down on the floor and both lay down."

The men stole jewellery and asked for the security equip-

ment video tape, but they were unable to get it from the machine. A shot was fired, apparently to the surprise of the two other robbers, the owner said.

"I don't know why Lee was shot. He was just lying on the floor as they asked him to do. He didn't do anything silly, he was just lying face down. These men could have taken the whole shop. Instead they killed an innocent person."

The raiders were said by Scotland Yard to be in their late teens or early 20s. They were thought to have escaped from the scene in a white Ford Escort parked near by.

One of them, who was described as black and 5ft 8in tall, was wearing a long khaki coat. Another, thought to be Asian or a pale-skinned Afro-Caribbean, was wearing a bomber jacket with a black and white baseball cap.

Members of the public yesterday placed flowers outside the shop where Mr Hoppie died. "To this man who was a victim of violence. May he rest in peace," one card read.

Worker awarded £72,000 for RSI

By a Staff Reporter

AN industrial radiographer was yesterday awarded compensation of £72,000 for repetitive strain injury (RSI) by the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

Victor Hunter, 48, of Bridge of Weir, Strathclyde, sustained the injury while checking parts for Trident submarines. His job involved making repeated adjustments to a turntable carrying metal castings while they were X-rayed.

Last year Judge Prosser caused protests when he ruled at the High Court that the term RSI was "meaningless and had no place in medical books".

Frank Maguire, of the law firm Robin Thompson and Partners which handled the case, said yesterday they hoped the decision would "assist many people who have suffered these sort of injuries at work but never believed they had a realistic chance of being properly compensated".

He said the judgment made clear that Mr Hunter's injuries were caused by the excessive, repeated force of movements he had to make in the course of his work. Mr Hunter said at his lawyer's office: "I still have limited movement in my

arms. The operations helped but it could take five years to get back to how I was."

He said at first the pain was "just a small niggle in my elbows", but the condition became worse and he was off work in 1991 for six months. When he told his employers, Clyde Shaw, it was "just water off a duck's back".

Mr Hunter began his battle, backed by the white-collar Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, when the company made him redundant three years ago. Doctors at first put his arms in plaster. Painful cortisone injections followed and eventually operations on his arms, which had limited success.

Mr Maguire said his firm was dealing with dozens of similar RSI claims at its offices in Glasgow and Edinburgh. "This judgment will be of assistance in other cases, in establishing that these conditions are very often work-related. It will also assist in some preventative sense for existing employees," he said.

"People often think these are minor claims that don't have a drastic effect but the damages in this case reflect the seriousness with which these claims are to be taken."



The cricketer Mike Gatting, who was yesterday selected for England's tour of Australia, demonstrating his versatility by playing in a celebrity golf match

Four die as lorry crashes into cars

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN was being operated on for serious injuries after a road accident yesterday unaware that her husband and two young children had been killed. A man in another car also died in the crash and 12 other travellers were injured.

Police said that they were having trouble tracing relatives of the injured woman, who is critically ill. Both of the children who died are believed to be under the age of four.

The crash happened on a contravention on the M74 early yesterday near Larkhall, Strathclyde, when an articulated lorry hit two cars head on.

Police believe that the lorry, which was heading north, veered into southbound traffic after striking a glancing blow to a lorry parked in a coned-off area.

The father and children who died were travelling in a Vauxhall Cavalier and are believed to come from Fife. The mother was taken to Law Hospital, Carlisle. The driver of a Renault Espace, Ian Campbell, 48, of Crossford, Fife, also died.

The two lorry drivers were treated for shock as were nine people in a minibus who were returning from a holiday in Blackpool to their homes in Buckle, Grampian.

The motorway was closed in both directions for much of yesterday. One witness said: "It is just as if a bomb has gone off in the middle of the motorway. It is a scene of total carnage. The central reservation has completely gone and one of the cars involved is so badly damaged it is almost unrecognisable."

CONNECTION

A report (September 1) incorrectly stated that the Financial Times had in the past been banned in Singapore and also that the paper is printed there. We apologise for the errors.

Gunman held after siege in village

By Bill Frost

A MAN who fired a shotgun at random in a village street and barricaded himself in a house gave himself up to police last night after a day-long siege.

Armed officers were called to Foxton in Cambridgeshire at 8.20am after reports of gunfire. Houses were evacuated, traffic was stopped from entering the village and trains on the nearby rail line were halted.

Later armed officers surrounded a house where the gunman had taken refuge. Earlier he had been seen walking around Foxton firing indiscriminately after what detectives described as a domestic row.

A police spokesman said nobody was hurt in the shooting. "His family and other people who lived at the house were removed for their own safety and two women were treated for shock."

David Hadfield, the Foxton postmaster, said that the incident occurred at a house normally occupied by Gerald Goodwin and his wife Lillian, who breed boxer dogs.

Christopher Parsion, 29, a neighbour, said he saw the gunman shouting at a woman in the middle of the road yesterday morning. A kennel-boy and a woman friend were trying to calm him down when he raised the weapon and fired at least two shots in the air, hitting Mr Parsion's house.

"When he started walking up the road with the gun they all started diving for cover," said Mr Parsion, who was watching from an upstairs window.

The woman fled inside Mr Parsion's home with the two others. "She was very shaken up. She said he had been shooting the house up," he said, adding that the man had pursued her up the road and looked over their gate.

Mr Parsion said that the gunman walked back to his house, which was later surrounded by armed officers.

A Cambridgeshire police spokesman said last night that a man had "surrendered himself and his weapon" after prolonged negotiations. He was in custody being questioned by detectives.

Drug man feared for mother's safety

A MOBILE-phone salesman facing the death penalty in the Philippines says he agreed to transport a shipment of heroin only because a drug syndicate had threatened to kill him and his mother if he refused.

Nigel Gatward, of Clapham, south London, told reporters on Friday that he tried to back out of the deal when he went last week to the central Philippine city of Cebu to pick up the drugs.

He said the woman who had recruited him told him by telephone from London that someone would be sent to kill him if he did. "Before I left London they said if I decide not to take the package... they will kill my mum," he said, adding he had also been worried for the safety of his wife, Shamima, and their two-year-old daughter Jenna.

Manila airport customs police arrested Gatward, 30, on Thursday, taking him from the first-class cabin of a KLM flight as it prepared to take-off for Amsterdam via Bangkok. Between six and eight kilograms of high-grade heroin were hidden in a bag that Gatward had checked in for the flight, police said.

Major Edward de la Cuesta, airport customs police commander, said that when tests were completed, Gatward would be charged with transporting illegal drugs. The charge carries the death penalty, he said.

Justice Department officials said that Gatward could face a minimum of 20 years in jail if he co-operated. Gatward said he would plead guilty. "I have to take what's coming," he said.



Gatward: caught with six kilos of heroin

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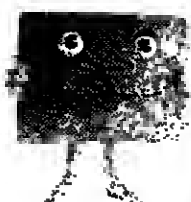
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THE SUNDAY TIMES

BRANDO: the dark side

For seven years
American writer
Peter Manso has
delved into
the life of



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to produce the
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on the actor's life.

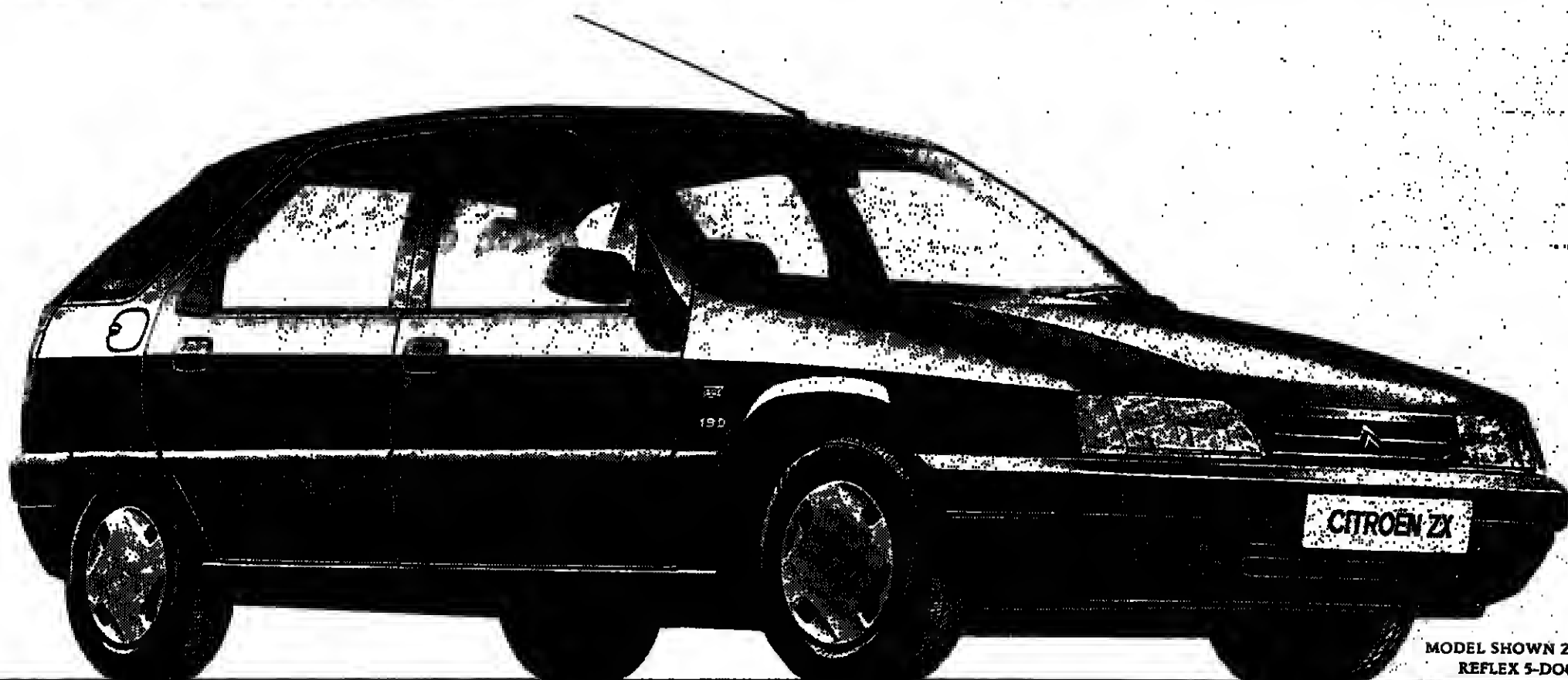
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biography of Brando
is published in
News Review in
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tomorrow



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No flowers or fuss, just lots of joy, says Castle's widow

By Emma Wilkins

ROY Castle, the entertainer and host of *Record Breakers*, the children's television programme, died yesterday after a two-and-a-half year battle against lung cancer. He was 62.

His wife, Fiona, who had sat by her husband's bedside throughout the night until his death early yesterday morning, said that she wanted him to be remembered with happiness.

"No flowers, no fuss, no mourning, just lots of joy," she said from the family home in Gerrard's Cross, Buckinghamshire.

The couple, who had been married for 31 years and have four grown-up children, shared a strong Christian faith.

"I stayed awake all night and sat with him until he stopped breathing. We have

such a strong faith and we know that he has gone to be with Jesus," Mrs Castle said.

Castle, who was awarded the OBE in 1993 for services to charity, died at 5.15am. But Mrs Castle waited several hours before telling their children Ben, 20, Amanda, 25, Julia, 27, and Daniel, 29, who were staying at home.

"There have been tears and there has been laughter and we have all prayed together," Mrs Castle said.

"Roy was a person who loved people. He realised that everyone had their worth, no matter what their rank or status. I think I shall remember his honesty most," she added. "I can't remember him ever being unfair — he has been lovely to everybody."

Castle, whose career in showbusiness began 35 years ago, died two days after his 62nd birthday. His illness made swallowing difficult, so Mrs Castle made him a birthday cake of ice cream.

He is thought to have developed lung cancer after years of passive smoking while playing the trumpet in clubs. The condition was diagnosed in March 1992 but nine months later he appeared to have beaten the disease and returned to work.

When the cancer spread to his brain in May this year, Castle decided to launch a £12 million campaign to raise money for a lung cancer research centre in Liverpool.

A gruelling 1,200 mile sponsored walk around Britain in July to raise money for his Cause for Hope appeal, brought in £1.1 million and won support from the Princess of Wales.

As tributes to Castle's dedication and bravery came from showbusiness colleagues and charity workers yesterday, the



Harry Secombe was best man at the wedding of Roy and Fiona Castle. They were married 31 years

Princess was "deeply saddened to hear the tragic news". After his condition was diagnosed, Castle became a vigorous campaigner against smoking and turned down an opportunity to meet Baroness Thatcher two years ago because of her links with the Philip Morris tobacco company.

Despite enduring sessions of chemotherapy, which resulted in the loss of his hair, Castle remained cheerful. When told he had only a 5 per cent chance of beating the disease he said: "I'll go for it."

This is one record I want to break. I'll be in that 5 per cent."

In a recent interview he said: "I have had a fantastic life. I don't think I have been dealt a bad hand and I can't grumble. I think I have achieved what I set out to do."

Castle, who was born in Huddersfield, began his career at the age of 14 in an amateur dramatic production, where he was billed as "The Little Boy with the Big Voice".

Although he appeared in several musicals and hosted a number of television series, it

is for his work on *Record Breakers* that Mr Castle will be most remembered.

His stunts on the programme included abseiling down Blackpool Tower, playing a trumpet while sharing a parachute and flying to Paris strapped to the wings of a biplane.

Norris McWhirter, co-presenter of *Record Breakers*, said Mr Castle's death was a great loss. "Few people could ever have brought so much enjoyment to so many. Almost his last words were 'Don't be sad'. He wanted people to look at things positively."

Sir Harry Secombe described Mr Castle a member of the showbusiness charity The Water Rats, as "the best of us". He epitomised everything that was good and fine about showbusiness and the profession is diminished by his passing," he said.

"He didn't lose his battle with cancer because his fight lives on through the inspiration he has given to so many people."

Other tributes came from Jimmy Tarbuck, Bernard Manning, Leslie Crowther and John Inman.



Chemotherapy made Castle's hair fall out but he managed to keep smiling



Castle blamed smoky clubs for his cancer

Woman in the News

Scapegoat for outcry over child agency

By Andrew Pierce

ROS Hepplewhite, who resigned yesterday as chief executive of the Child Support Agency, was on the verge of going in April, on its first anniversary.

Nationwide protests were held to mark the day, a minister's home was daubed with graffiti and death threats were being received by Ms Hepplewhite. Hate mail was being sent to agency offices.

This July Ms Hepplewhite had to go before the Commons Social Security Select Committee to make a public apology for the agency's shortcomings.

The CSA had been pursuing absent fathers who were already paying maintenance and could be required to pay more. Absent fathers who were paying nothing were being left alone. They became known as "soft targets".

A leaked memorandum from a regional manager telling his staff "the name of the game is maximising maintenance — don't waste a lot of time on the non-profitable stuff" deepened the controversy. Ms Hepplewhite's apology came a few weeks later.

Standards had not been acceptable and targets for saving the taxpayer money had been missed, she said. "We apologise to our clients for the difficulties they have experienced because of our shortcomings."

A target of £530 million in benefit savings was set. Only £416 million was reached. Only £3 million extra was paid out to single parents. The agency budget was increased by £70 million to £84 million, up 60 per cent instead of the planned 10 per cent. By now MPs were receiving an average 70 complaints each day.

CSA letters were sent in error to happily married men alleging they owed maintenance for a child of whom they had never heard. Many of the letters had been opened by their wives.

The CSA has also been linked to several suicides by men who had received demands for cash.

The agency was accused of tearing up "clean break" settlements made by divorcing couples in the past in court. The formula the CSA used took no account of a man's debts or the expense of visiting his children. Almost half the claims took three months to process, rather than the expected five days.

Groups fighting for single parents joined the opposition. Sue Shipman, director of the National Council for One-Parent Families, said the rules should be changed so that more of the money collected went to mothers and children.

When she was appointed, Ms Hepplewhite, who had worked in the health service and health charities, did not shy away from publicity, being photographed in her Whitehall office.

When the protests began, the official who had undertaken that publicity became the scapegoat. She was depicted as a vulture by one tabloid and as the country's most hated woman by another.

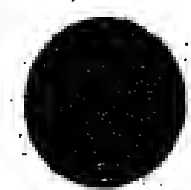
When asked in the summer if the CSA formula was flawed, Ms Hepplewhite, who had publicly supported it when it was announced, changed tack. She replied: "That clearly is not an issue that I can express an opinion on." MPs remarked that her time was running out.

Play

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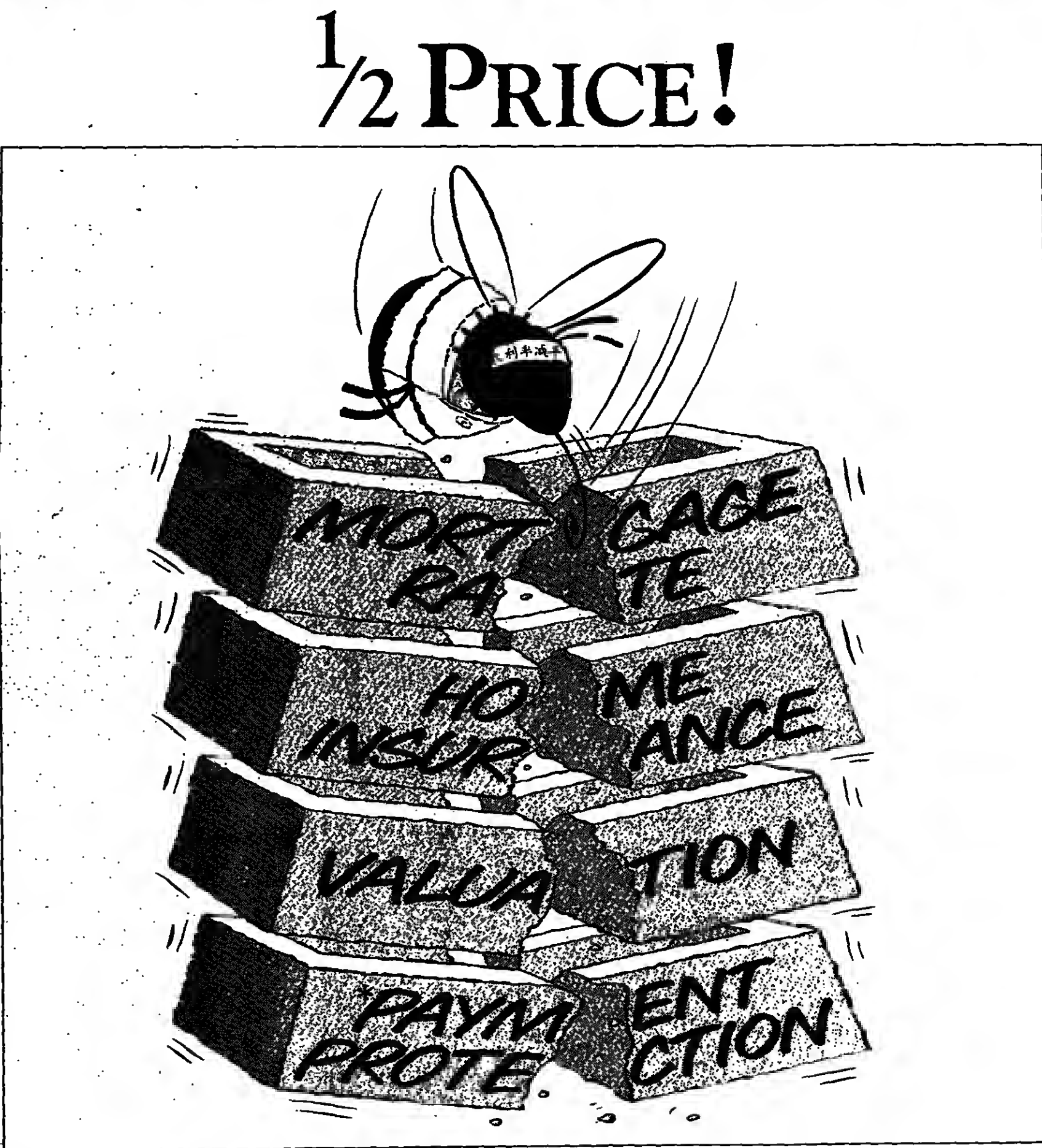
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Bucharest judge keeps baby couple in suspense

FROM LIN JENKINS IN BUCHAREST

A BRITISH couple accused of paying £4,000 for a five-month-old baby and of trying to smuggle her out of Romania appeared in a Bucharest court yesterday alongside the child's teenage mother.

In the eight weeks since Bernadette Mooney, 39, and her husband Adrian, 41, a brewery manager, were stopped on the Hungarian border with the child hidden in a picnic basket in their car, they have spent 13 nights in police cells and the remainder on bail in the capital.

Mrs Mooney, of Wokingham, Berkshire, raised her hands to her face in anguish as the interpreter translated the judge's decision to adjourn the hearing until September 14. The couple, who admitted the offences at an earlier hearing and apologised, had hoped that the case would be concluded yesterday, leaving them free to return home if the court decided not to jail them.

The offence carries a maximum term of five years' jail. The judge, Rodica Poba, adjourned the case because Florina Dimir, 16, and Florin Baiaram, 17, a gypsy couple who allegedly sold the child Monica for £850 through intermediaries, were not legally represented. A suggestion that

they should share the lawyer representing the alleged baby-broker Ioan Bratram and his two accomplices, Dumitru Costache and Ion Burlacu was rejected because of possible conflict of interest. The couple will have a lawyer appointed and paid for by the court.

The Mooneys and Mrs Dimir and Mr Baiaram were released on bail. The three other men were remanded in custody where they have been since their arrest.

Ioana Floca, the Mooneys' lawyer, said after the 35-minute hearing that the couple were not happy about the delay but understood the procedural problems. "They had hoped that the case would end today, but they knew there could be some difficulties," Mrs Floca said.

She told the noisy court, where television camera crews and photographers massed around the defendants, that the Mooneys were in a "special situation" and finding it difficult "morally, psychologically and financially".

The Mooneys' legally adopted three-year-old daughter Grace is in Bucharest with them. They hope that her evident well-being will help to persuade the court that they were motivated purely by a



Florina Dimir, far left, and Florin Baiaram, yesterday. They are charged with complicity in illegal adoption. Right, the Mooneys leaving court

desire for another child and not by some sinister motive. Grace was yesterday being looked after by her grandfather Sidney Glover while her parents were in court.

Mr and Mrs Mooney looked tense and tired as they left the court, declining to comment and anxious to escape the cameras which are allowed to follow proceedings in Romanian courts. The television crews had proved so

intrusive that Miss Poba threatened to halt the hearing. Mrs Dimir, barely over 4 ft tall, and her boyfriend Mr Baiaram looked bewildered and overawed.

As they left court they said they doubted whether they could afford to make a second trip from their home, 50 miles away, for another hearing. The judge ordered that Monica's natural father Alexandra Dimir, to whom Florina was

married under gypsy law, be summoned to attend the next hearing.

After the hearing, the judge said she realised the Mooneys were disappointed. "I would have liked to have gone ahead but it was not in our power to do so. We have to go along with legal provisions. If we had gone ahead with this hearing today, the statements could have been challenged in a later appeal. We could not

afford to make a professional mistake," Miss Poba said.

Monica is being cared for in Bucharest Orphanage No 1 which has a pioneering mother-and-baby unit and is a far cry from the institutions discovered crammed with 200,000 abandoned children after the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu five years ago.

The demand for babies and the decline in the number of unwanted babies born since

contraception and abortion became more available has led the Romanian government to restrict conditions for adoption.

To be eligible, babies must be abandoned for at least six months, then offered first to Romanian couples before being offered abroad, where prospective fathers must at most be 40 years older than the child and mothers 35 years.

Car thieves go fishing for BMW

Thieves stole a £23,000 BMW yesterday by poking a pole with a hook on the end through a letter box to fish the keys off a porch table.

They left the bamboo pole by the glass porch after escaping with the car in Camlington, Northumberland.

Police said: "Anyone with a similar porch would do well to see if the same thing could happen to them."

Sailors named

Two Faroe Islands fishermen who died when their trawler hit rocks and sank after leaving Scrabster, Highland, on Thursday night were named as Marner Poulsen, 33, and Peter Andersen, 39.

Man held

A man aged 27 was being questioned by police investigating the murder of Emma Knight, 20, whose battered body was found at her home at Headington, Oxford, on Thursday.

Cat cruelty

Kenneth Wake, 48, his wife Christine, 47, and daughter Cara, 19, were fined £50 each by magistrates at Tamworth, Staffordshire, for failing to take a pet cat with a broken leg to the vet for six weeks.

Girder death

A worker was crushed to death by a girder on a bridge section of a new road near Glynneath, West Glamorgan. The man, aged 43, was from Telford, Shropshire.

Pollution fine

Agas Gas was fined £12,000 by Coalville magistrates after it admitted polluting the River Sence in Leicestershire with a spillage of lime slurry, killing 5,000 fish.

Porpoise dies

A baby porpoise, named Arthog after the North Wales beach on which she was washed up 10 days ago, died at an RSPCA wildlife hospital near King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Bond winner

The winner of the £1 million National Savings premium bond prize for September is number 32MS 78427. The holder lives in Essex and has a holding of £5,025.

Motoring: Weekend, pages 17, 18

National Trust is given £1m

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE National Trust has signed its biggest sponsorship deal with a commercial company, worth £1 million over five years to the country's leading conservation charity.

Rover Group, the last main British-owned car manufacturer until bought recently by BMW of Germany, has agreed to supply vehicles at preferential rates to train staff and volunteers in rough-terrain driving and to stage promotional events raising funds for the trust's coastline

and countryside conservation programme.

The trust's 200 outdoor warden are major users of the company's Land Rover range. There has been concern at accidents which have occurred when unskilled drivers have used the vehicles in rough country to rescue animals or walkers in difficulty. Trust staff and wardens will receive off-road driving training at Rover's expense.

Ian Vollom, the trust's director of finance, said yesterday that the deal would make a significant contribution to the

coastline and countryside conservation programme, which is labour-intensive and consumes £35 million of the trust's annual £100 million budget. Land in care encompasses 600 miles of coastline, and 600,000 inland acres, including large stretches of the Lake District and Snowdonia.

Other sponsorship deals signed recently include a £500,000, five-year partnership with British Gas for countryside work and fund-raising agreements with Midland Bank and Frizzell Insurance.

Marriage best policy for drivers

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

MEN are being offered discounts of up to a third on their car insurance policies if they are married and do not smoke.

Insurance companies admitted yesterday that they are focusing on almost every aspect of their clients' lives, even down to the colour of their cars, to determine who is the best risk and worth offering tempting premiums.

But the single man lighting up a cigarette at the wheel and contemplating a lonely evening meal should brace himself for a steep bill. If his car is a high-performance model in an aggressive red, the future is even gloomier. According to

Harringtons Insurance in London, if you are married, take your health seriously enough not to smoke and have the responsibility of a mortgage rather than renting, you are also more responsible behind the wheel and less likely to claim.

Women are still the better risk and a married woman could save 32.5 per cent on an insurance premium while her husband would get only a 12.5 per cent discount on the same car.

David Wood, a Harringtons spokesman, said: "It has always been a myth that female drivers are bad drivers, and statistics show males have more insurance claims than women. So it follows that married women are even more responsible on the road and get even

bigger discounts." There is no time limit on how long drivers have to be married, so tying the knot on Monday could mean cheaper insurance on Tuesday, Mr Wood said.

Home-owners receive discounts, partly because of their more cautious approach to life but also because they know the roads around their home better than people moving between rented flats.

The colour of the car will be the next consideration, according to Mr Wood. "There are theories that cars of certain colours are more likely to be involved in an accident than others."

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Oxfam cash 'needed in Third World, not Britain'



Taylor, spending cannot be justified

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE director of a leading aid agency has criticised a proposal by Oxfam to launch an aid programme to combat poverty in Britain. The Rev Michael Taylor, director of Christian Aid, said yesterday that spending precious resources in Britain could not be justified in the face of the extreme deprivation elsewhere.

Oxfam, the Third World charity known for its famine relief work, is considering extending activities in Britain because of growing unease about the gap between rich and poor.

Mr Taylor said: "Even though there is serious poverty in this country, it is still not as desperate as in the Third World. There may be holes in the welfare safety net but at least the safety net is there. There are large parts of the world without any safety net."

Oxfam has set up an inquiry into the need for a British aid programme in response to criticism from overseas countries that it is failing to address problems at home. A spokesman said: "We cannot ignore the fact that there seems to be more poverty in Britain."

Mr Taylor said that Christian Aid had asked the same question two years ago but decided against action. "Given

the imbalance of resources in the world, should organisations like us be putting them back into this country? On balance, we think not." He said the aid agencies had faced the same agonising decisions over whether to send aid to eastern Europe.

British charities working with the poor welcomed Oxfam's move. Helen Dent, policy director of NCH Action for Children formerly the National Children's Home, said: "We have three million children living in poverty in the UK and 100,000 young people sleeping rough on the streets. There is more work than the five major children's charities can do." Sally Witcher,

director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said that poverty in Britain was different from, but as acute as, poverty in the Third World. "If poverty is about having enough to eat, it is clearly worse elsewhere. But if it is about being a part of society then it is bad here."

Patricia Morgan, a researcher on family poverty for the Institute of Economic Affairs, said families in Britain had been "asset-stripped". "We haven't got famine in this country but we have got poverty. The standards some people have been pushed down to is a disgrace in a rich country."

Leading article, page 15

More rail strikes greet plans for sacking signalmen

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

RAIL union leaders called three further strike days yesterday as Railtrack's preparations to sack striking signalworkers deepened the divide between the two sides.

Train travellers, faced with a 24-hour signalworkers' strike on Thursday, have two more strikes to cope with: a 48-hour stoppage on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 14 and 15, and a 24-hour strike on Friday, September 23.

The latest strikes proposed by the RMT rail union, which were described by Railtrack as "futile" last night, will take the number of strike days in the 12-week dispute to 19.

In reply, Railtrack is expected to step up its propaganda battle with the signalworkers by attacking the presence at next week's annual TUC conference in Blackpool of Jimmy Knapp, the RMT general secretary. He is this year's TUC president and is due to chair the conference all week, including Thursday's strike day.

TUC delegates will face the striking signalworkers, starting tomorrow evening and a march through Blackpool on the day of the strike.

Railtrack will use the events

in Blackpool to deflect attention from its leaked proposals to sack the striking signalworkers and re-employ them only if they sign individual contracts based on the working practices the company wants to introduce as part of its productivity restructuring.

The proposals, which the company insists are only details of an option it has been considering for some time, but which it has no plans at present to proceed with, provoked a political outcry yesterday, particularly over their likely cost of £16.5 million, which is three times what it would take to meet in full the RMT's claim for an 11 per cent interim productivity payment.

Frank Dobson, Labour's transport spokesman, attacked both Railtrack and ministers. "The Government say Railtrack can't afford £5 million to settle the dispute. We know they are contemplating spending £16 million to sack all signal staff. To squander all this money and not to find the £5 million to settle the dispute is voodoo economics."

Mr Knapp said that Railtrack's policy of hoping to scare people back to work was doomed to failure and called

on the company to abandon its "subterfuge" and "macho management" and get back to genuine negotiations on the union's claim.

He said: "There is very strong feeling about today's revelations which expose the hypocrisy of the company's negotiating stance."

Railtrack again insisted that its preferred option was for a negotiated settlement rather than any action such as sacking strikers. David Armstrong, the company's human resources director, said he was appalled at the RMT's announcement of further strikes, which would add to the already irreparable damage the strikes had done to the railway industry, and which had lost each striker more than £1,000.

He said the union would rather stage a "futile show of strength" than negotiate a package which would benefit its members. He said that Railtrack's losses from the dispute amounted to more than £100 million.

□ Talks to try to avert a strike at Britain's biggest holiday airline were continuing last night.

Nearly 1,000 cabin crew at Britannia Airways have voted overwhelmingly for industrial action in a pay and hours dispute.

Talks began at Britannia's headquarters at Luton, Bedfordshire, on Thursday and continued yesterday between representatives from the TGWU and the Britannia management and an official from the conciliation service Acas.

The airline, which said its 5 per cent pay offer was fair and well above increases being offered by its rivals, is training staff to stand in for stewards and stewardesses in case a strike goes ahead.

It said any stoppage would have "minimal impact" on its holiday flights.



Dobson: criticised 'voodoo economics'



Armstrong: 'appalled' at further strikes



The basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson towering over a young fan, Duran Campbell, 6, after arriving in London where he was to play in an all-star team last night. Diary, page 14

Russian backs athletics decision

By JOHN GODDARD
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE head of the Russian athletics federation yesterday gave his support to Britain's decision to take part in next week's World Cup despite the positive drug test on Diane Modahl.

Her victory at the European Cup on June 25 helped the British women's team to qualify for the finals at the expense of Russia.

Valentin Balakhnichov, president of the Russian Athletics Federation, said the British federation's decision was correct. "They have their own authority to make this decision. However, I would like to know the position of the International Amateur Athletic Federation. I have had no information from them."

The IAAF, which later insisted that it had kept in daily touch with the Russians, said yesterday that it might be possible for individual performances to stand, although the placing of the team was still likely to be annulled if Modahl had her four-year suspension confirmed. Modahl has insisted that she is innocent. She also has the right of an appeal to a separate panel.

Mr Balakhnichov said he had come under no pressure from Russian athletes for their country to take part in the finals. Asked whether he felt the Russian team should be taking part, he said: "Only after a full investigation can I say yes or no. At the moment, I do not have enough information."

Professor Peter Radford, executive chairman of the British Athletics Federation, said that the decision not to withdraw the women's team was because it was an important principle that guilt is never assumed but must be proven. "We will not be rushed or panicked into going against our rules and we believe the rest of the world will see this as a right and proper action," he said.

Birthday expedition ends in death fall

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A BIRTHDAY treat ended in tragedy in the Scottish mountains. A man who celebrated becoming an octogenarian by taking part in a hill-walking expedition fell to his death.

David Goodwin, a retired civil servant, slipped and fell 200 feet as he descended Schiehallion, a 3,547ft mountain near Loch Rannoch in Tayside, with his son-in-law and grandson.

Mr Goodwin's son-in-law Jeremy Bridgeland, 45, was injured when he tried to stop the pensioner falling. His 15-year-old son Charles stayed with the two men while Edward, 13, ran a mile and a half to raise the alarm.

A Sea King search and rescue helicopter from HMS Gannet which was in the area was diverted to the scene of accident.

It airlifted both men to a nearby car park and they were taken by ambulance to Perth Royal Infirmary, where Mr Goodwin was found to be dead on arrival. Mr Bridgeland, headmaster of Ardreck Preparatory School in Crieff, suffered leg and head injuries and is expected to leave hospital soon.

Yesterday Mr Goodwin's daughter Yvonne Bridgeland spoke of how her father's "dearest wish" was to climb a mountain on his eightieth birthday. "He had been climbing in the Lake District on his twenty-first birthday and wanted to repeat the experience," she said.

"We are devastated by his death. My husband chose a mountain which was not too difficult to climb. My father had been to his doctor a week before for a full check-up and was told he was fit to climb."

Bigger children lead to growing costs

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE school year starts next week and the cost to parents kitting out their children in new uniforms is likely to be anything up to £700 a child.

Struggle as they might to keep costs down, parents are up against one increasingly expensive fact of life: children are getting bigger.

The John Lewis Partnership, which through its stores up and down the country services the outfitting lists of 1,020 schools, is stocking boys' blazers in chest size 48in for the first time.

"Young people are getting more and more strapping year by year," Paul Martin, the partnership's central buyer of schoolwear, said. "We monitor special orders for children who cannot be fitted from our standard ready-to-wear ranges, and when we spot that there is a demand for a particular item we introduce it. That is what has just happened with the 48in blazer, but we were already doing a full range of styles in a 46in chest. I am not as big as that myself."

John Lewis furnishes the requirements of 100 schools from its Oxford Street store

and 70 from Peter Jones in Sloane Square.

There are five school representatives employed at the former and three at the latter, to agree with the schools the shopping lists that are sent out to parents. There are one or more school representatives at all the partnership's other stores around Britain, negotiating with local schools to which they are appointed outfitters.

There is some pressure from parents, Mr Martin admits, to make schools allow cheaper alternatives "but it is a trickle and not a flood". Parents are generally in favour of uniforms: some schools, such as

Harraby School in Carlisle, have actually reintroduced it at parents' request.

Most schools, independent and state sector alike, are conscious of keeping the uniform simple and flexible and the cost reasonable. Mr Martin said. The most basic school kit (blazer, grey trousers or skirt, white shirt, cardigan, socks and shoes) costs only £69.50 for a boy and £1 more for a girl, but most schools do want something more than that. "The average is 20 items including mainline sports-wear," said Mr Martin, "but there are wide variations."

Indeed, some boarding schools' lists run to two or

even three pages of closely written typescript, said Louise Cardon of Gabbitts-Thring, a London agency which takes on guardianship duties for pupils whose parents abroad require somebody to do the shopping in their place.

"By the time you have taken in summer uniforms, physical education gear like tracksuits, sports shirts and blouses and leotards, and sundries like laundry bags, trunks, nuck-bones, duvets with fire-retardant covers, our bills generally come to between £500 and £700 for each child," she said. "Even that could be increased if the child wants a lot of sports gear, or is very

fashion-conscious." The most expensive item in any uniform list is likely to be the school blazer. In polyester, blazers run from £29.50, but a top of the range blazer, already braided and bagged will cost £90. Many schools, including comprehensives, still require regulation ties and scarves, though Mr Martin admitted "caps are not what they were".

Surprisingly large numbers of schools still want straw boaters for summer, though some leave it as an option. Velour-type hats and berets for girls are almost as much in demand as ever, and children, the experts say, are increasingly dictatorial about the shoes they will wear. This is an item for which most schools stipulate a colour but allow full freedom of choice in the matter of style.

It is all, Mr Martin agreed, very big business. "With 30,000 lines in our schoolwear ranges, our stock investment for each school is likely to be about £70,000 at this time of year. We have to have girls' skirts in 21 different sizes and a very large number of styles, and even the girls now go up to 32-inch waists." Perhaps one should not ask what they look like in leotards.

Expensive shoes 'waste of money'

By ROBIN YOUNG

BUYING expensive shoes for children can be a waste of money because poorly trained shop assistants fit them so badly, according to the Consumers' Association *Which?*

In its September issue *Which?* reports on a survey in which 26 families were asked to buy one pair of fitted shoes from shops selling the Clarks or Start-rite brands and one pair from shops with no fitting service.

A foot surgeon and an independent shoe fitter assessed the results and found that the parents did little worse without assistance than

they did paying often twice the price for specially fitted shoes. Of nine pairs of Start-rite shoes bought, four were already too short or had no growing space. "The other five," *Which?* says, "could have been better. None was judged a good fit." Clarks fared better, with four out of the 16 pairs fitted judged as bad, five open to improvement and seven good.

Michael Chesworth, managing director of Start-rite, said the survey had not used a realistic sample. David Harding, children's brand director of Clarks, said: "We spend £250,000 training 2,000 staff a year, and are always looking to raise our standards."

Tourist guide to men-only churches launched

By RUTH GLENDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A MEN-ONLY church guide has been drawn up in the West Country to help visiting churchgoers to avoid women priests.

The Rev Tom Curry, priest of the Donheads area near Shaftesbury, Dorset, drew up the list of 60 churches in the Salisbury diocese "primarily to help laity", he said last night. "This is especially important where clergy work in teams. It could be a man this

week, a woman the next and a Marian the next. Anything is possible within the Church of England."

The guide has been criticised as divisive in a church only just coming to terms with more than 1,000 newly-ordained women priests.

Fr Curry said the information had been drawn up under the auspices of Forward in Faith, an umbrella group for opponents of women priests. On sale for 50p at Faith House in Westminster, it follows a similar guide to men-only churches in the

Chichester diocese, he said. The guide was for visitors and also for local churchgoers who might be dissatisfied that their parish had taken in a woman priest.

It would save them "the embarrassment of having to walk out in the middle" when a woman began to say the eucharistic prayers, he said.

Under church law, a priest can refuse permission to a woman to celebrate Communion in his parish and the guide indicates those clergy who are against women priests.

Kevin Catchpole, a diocesan spokesman, welcomed the list. He said: "Anything that lets people know where they can find these churches is to be encouraged. We want people to know where they can worship."

But Christina Rees, former spokeswoman for the Movement for the Ordination of Women, an organisation which ceased to exist following this summer's ordinations, said: "This will increase the sense of disunity in the church." Critics of female ordination must accept the change.

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Munich £144

Muscat £489

Nairobi £399

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Orlando £299

Ottawa £319

Paris £83

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Pisa £173

Pittsburgh £239

Prague £165

Raleigh £268

Richmond £338

Rochester £338

Rome £173

Sofia £199

St Petersburg £249

Stuttgart £125

Taipei £629

Tampa £328

Tel Aviv £242

Thessaloniki £178

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Turin £156

Vancouver £419

Verona £162

Warsaw £225

Zurich £139

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Thieves take saint's casket in £1m raid on Cornish church

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A MEDIEVAL casket, said to have contained the relics of Petroc, the Cornish saint, has been stolen in a £1 million raid on a church. The ivory container, designed by Sicilian and Islamic craftsmen, was one of the finest reliquaries in England, according to the *Oxford Dictionary of Saints*.

It was stolen on Thursday from the 15th century church of St Petroc in Bodmin. The thieves also took a gold leaf Russian Orthodox statue of Christ, a silver plated communion chalice and a ceremonial sword.

The casket was behind reinforced, bullet-proof glass in a recess in the church wall; the temperature was kept constant to prevent it from deteriorating. The remains of the 6th century saint had crumbled to nothing hundreds of years ago.

The theft came to light as figures were released by the

Ecclesiastical Insurance Group in Gloucester which showed that each day 17 churches are attacked or broken into. The company is holding seminars for clergy on improving security.

A police investigation is being held into the Bodmin theft. Canon Ken Rogers, team rector, said: "We are devastat-



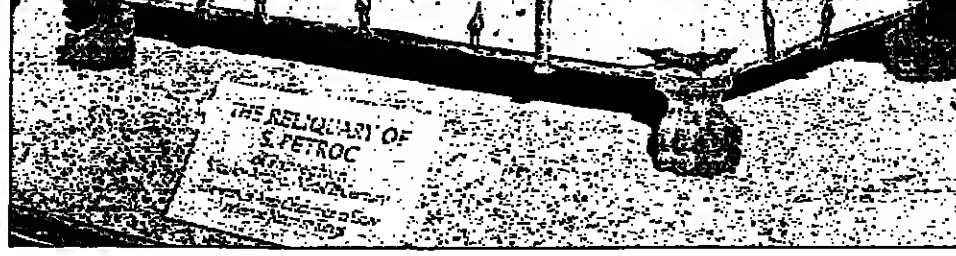
Rogers: devastated by loss of the casket

ed by the loss of the casket. It is irreplaceable Cornish heritage. Something will have gone from our history for ever if it is not returned."

The break-in came two days before the annual Gorsedd ceremony, which celebrates "all that is good" in Cornwall. The Rev Brian Coombes, the assistant curate, who will today be installed Grand Bard of the Gorsedd at Camborne, said: "There is a feeling of absolute shock. For it to have happened within two days of the Gorsedd is shattering."

Peter Davies, chairman of Bodmin museum, said: "It is a tragedy for Cornwall." This is not the first time St Petroc's remains have gone missing. They were stolen from Bodmin Priory in 1177 by a malcontent Bodmin canon. The Bishop of Exeter tracked them down to St Meen in Brittany, at which point Henry II intervened.

A rib was left at St Meen



St Petroc's reliquary, stolen with other valuables from the church in Bodmin

and the remaining relics were restored to Bodmin. They were put into the casket, which was hidden during the Reformation, and were rediscovered in the porch of the Bodmin parish church only in the 19th century. The reliquary belongs to Bodmin town council.

St Petroc had arrived from South Wales, landing near Hayle, and lived as a hermit on Bodmin Moor. In 564 he was on a visit to a monastery he had founded when he died and was buried at Padstow.

Around the year 1000 his shrine, relics, staff and bell were taken to Bodmin, after which the town became the Bode of Monks and the religious hub of the west. Many churches in the area are dedicated to him.

Most churches pay an annual insurance premium of between £3,000 and £5,000. The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group has urged the clergy to double security. Jim Scott, a company spokesman, said the 17 incidents each day were "grotesque". He said: "In the

past the church was regarded as a place of sanctuary and sanctity. Now it is an easy target."

He said lecterns, altar tables, pulpits and even stained glass windows had been removed from churches. Two inscribed Charles I silver flagons taken from a church in Somerset had their engravings removed and when they appeared at auction had gone from being priceless to worthless.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 2

Call to judgment and forgiveness

Jonathan Sacks

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year which begins on Monday evening, is a period of intense spiritual drama. It ushers in ten days of penitence and self-examination, culminating in the Day of Atonement, Judaism's holy of holies of time.

The Hebrew Bible describes the New Year in terms of its central religious act, the blowing of the shofar or ram's horn. If anything warrants the title of the sound of Jewish history, it is this. The ram's horn was heard at Mount Sinai when God and the children of Israel joined to agree the covenant that has framed our destiny ever since. It accompanied Joshua into battle as the Israelites entered the promised land. For Amos and Ezekiel it was the sound of warning. For the rabbis it recalled one of the great trials

of the Bible, the binding of Isaac, which ended when Abraham offered up a ram which had been caught in a bush by its horn. On the New Year all these nuances are present, but there is one more. The sound of the ram's horn becomes a clarion of judgment. It is as if the courtroom of the world is in session, and we stand in the presence of God the King. On other festivals the atmosphere is celebratory, intimate and relaxed. But the New Year and Day of Atonement are rightly called the Days of Awe. They are the time when we are most conscious of our lives being passed in review. We pray that the good we have done be remembered, and the wrong forgiven. As the books of judgment lie open, we pray to God "Write us in the Book of Life". These

days set before us two propositions at the heart of Jewish spirituality. The first is that our lives are judged not by power or fame or wealth or success but by the good we do. Judaism is a religion of this-worldly redemption, in which we bring the Divine presence into our lives by acts of justice and compassion, "perfecting the world under the sovereignty of God". At this sacred time, we rededicate ourselves to that end. The second is the knowledge that we are fallible. "There is not a righteous person on earth," said Ecclesiastes, "who does only right and never sins." The Hebrew Bible is not an anthology of idealised figures. Every hero in its pages has his or her moments of fear or anger, doubt or hesitation. We are human, yet we strive for a world of righteousness because we experience God in the form of forgiveness, never more than on these days. Faith is the knowledge that as we turn to God, He turns to us and gives us the strength to begin again.

The events of this century have immeasurably deepened the resonances of the ram's horn. In it we hear a lament for the collective binding of Isaac, the Holocaust. In it too we hear the great ingathering of exiles to participate in Israel's national rebirth. In it, though, as always we hear the ancient wordless call of God summoning us, as at Mount Sinai, to make a blessing over life, dedicating our lives to becoming a blessing for others.

Dr Jonathan Sacks is the Chief Rabbi.



Carey boosts role of Church in China

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to China will reflect the re-emergence of Christianity in there, church leaders said yesterday.

Dr George Carey, who leaves for China next week, has been briefed on human rights issues in a country where most church leaders were detained during the Cultural Revolution. Adherents to Christianity are increasing rapidly but still represent only 1 per cent of the population.

Edmund Tang, of the UK Council of Churches China desk, said the visit was "first of all a recognition of the re-

emergence of the Christian church in China."

"He is well aware of the strength of feeling concerning human rights issues and religious freedom issues in the West," he said.

Dr Richard Marsh, ecumenical affairs assistant, said: "The Archbishop will listen and learn. I would not like to circumscribe what the Archbishop may or may not bring up in terms of problem areas."

Dr Carey will visit Shanghai, Nanjing, Chengdu and Peking. He will travel via Hong Kong, where he will meet the governor, Chris Patten, and Bishop Peter Kwong of Hong Kong.

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KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

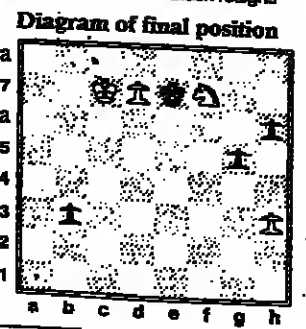
Pentium triumph
The Pentium processor continued to cut a swathe through the human grandmasters in the quarter-final of the Intel Grand Prix in London. Having ousted human world champion Garry Kasparov in round one, the machine demolished the former Yugoslav grandmaster Predrag Nikolic by the score of 2-0 in the quarter-final. Nikolic had himself earlier eliminated Nigel Short.

White: Pentium Genius
Black: Predrag Nikolic
Intel Grand Prix, London, September 1994

Bogo-Indian Defence

1 d4	Nf6
2 Nf3	e6
3 c4	Bb4+
4 Bc2	c5
5 Bxb4	cxb4
6 Nbd2	O-O
7 g3	b6
8 Bg2	Bb7
9 O-O	d8
10 Qc2	Qc7
11 e3	Nbd7
12 B3	bxa3
13 Rxa3	c5
14 Rb1	a6
15 Qc3	Rb8
16 b4	a5
17 Qxb4	h6
18 Rb8	Rb8
19 Rxa5	Ba8
20 Nc5	Qc6
21 Bxh6	axb4
22 axb4	Qa7

23 Bc5	Qa1+
24 Kf2	Qx4
25 Nf3	Qc5
26 Qb5	Qd6
27 Bxd7	Nxd7
28 Qd5	Qxd5
29 Qxd5	Kf8
30 Nf4	Kf7
31 Nf5+	Kf8
32 g4	b5
33 Nf4	b4
34 Qb6	Nc5
35 f4	Ne6
36 Nf3	Nd4+
37 Kf3	g5
38 Nc5	Ne6
39 Nf7+	Kg7
40 Kd3	h5
41 Kd3	Kf7
42 Kc4	Nd8
43 Nc5	Nc6
44 h3	h5
45 g5	Kf6
46 Kd5	Nd8
47 Kd6	Kf5
48 Kc7	Nf7
49 d7	Kf6
50 Nf4+	Ke7
51 Nd5	b5
52 Nd7	Black resigns



Winning move.
Weekend, page 27

هكذا من الأصل

Chinese President's trip ends 30-year rivalry with Russia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA and China today will bury their last remaining differences after more than 30 years of suspicion and rivalry, when President Jiang Zemin is ushered into the Kremlin to a warm reception from President Yeltsin.

After decades of hostility, marked at moments by border clashes and the threat of war, the two giants of the East appear prepared to put aside rival ideologies, bury their territorial differences and end their military stand-off.

According to the Kremlin, the leaders will sign several agreements during President Jiang Zemin's visit, significantly the first by a Chinese leader since Mao Tse-tung arrived in Moscow in 1957.

Most important, Peking and Moscow for the first time in their history will agree formally the demarcation of their 4,300-mile border. The region was once one of the most heavily militarised in the world, where frontier clashes in the 1960s nearly spilled into all-out war.

The two nuclear powers, who once vied for supremacy of the Communist world, are also scheduled to agree to re-target their missiles away from each other's territory, a deal similar to that concluded between Moscow and Wash-

ington and London earlier this year. However, unlike Peking's relations with the West, the Russians have made it clear that matters of human rights and other ideological differences will not be allowed to cloud Sino-Russian ties.

If anything the two countries are growing closer on key aspects of international diplomacy, like the decision earlier this year by Moscow and Peking to oppose Washington's calls for international sanctions against North Korea over its suspected atomic weapons programme.

"They say in China mutual

concord can turn mud into gold," said President Yeltsin in a message delivered to the Chinese people this week. He was referring to the one issue which dominates their bilateral relations today, the multi-billion pound trade in goods and services across the border.

Commercial ties are dominated by the import of cheap Chinese consumer goods, which have flooded the Russian market, and the export by Russia of raw materials. Russia's ailing arms manufacturers are hoping to take advantage of the visit to press for more sales to China, which already buys Russian warplanes and missile systems.

The reconciliation between the two nations is particularly rewarding for President Jiang Zemin, who speaks good Russian from his time spent in the 1950s as a guest worker in Moscow's sprawling Stalin autoworks, since resumed ZIL. At that time Russia and China enjoyed the relationship of Communist siblings, with Russia regarded as "big brother" and China as "little brother". However, fraternal relations soon broke down into 30 years of rivalry and Mr Jiang Zemin was persecuted during the Cultural Revolution for his Russian connections.



Jiang Zemin: agreement on border demarcation



Alexander Solzhenitsyn reminiscing yesterday, at the window of the log cabin in which he once lived, with a resident of Miltsevo, 250 miles southeast of Moscow

Mir commander rescues Moscow space programme

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S endangered space programme was rescued yesterday by the skill of one of its cosmonauts who succeeded in manually linking the Mir orbiting station with a Progress cargo module bringing essential supplies.

The successful link-up, after two previous docking attempts on August 27 and 30 were aborted, came as a relief to Russian space officials. If Lieutenant Colonel Yuri Malenchenko, the crew commander of Mir, had failed, the space station would have had to be left unmanned, endangering Western projects worth hundreds of millions of dollars, money on which the Russian programme is critically dependent.

Boris Ostroumov, the deputy head of the Russian space agency, said before Colonel Malenchenko's successful attempt: "I dread even to think of the consequences if the Progress vessel does not dock with the station."

The Progress module, with fuel reserves for only another two docking attempts, was ferrying food and water as supplies on Mir were running low. The three cosmonauts on board had only enough food and water to last them until September 15. The two previous attempts to link up had failed because automatic systems aboard Mir had aborted the docking for reasons that

experts have been unable to fathom.

Colonel Malenchenko, who is on his first mission, manually attempted the docking after ground control positioned the module 200 yards off Mir. He had been coached on Thursday night by experts on the ground on how to carry out the docking.

Mir, which has been manned almost continuously since 1986, is the pride of the Russian space programme. The orbiting station has enabled Russia to keep its cosmonauts in space for long periods — an aspect where Russia continues to have a lead over the United States. If yesterday's docking had failed, the Mir crew would have had to quit the station, dashing the hopes of Valeri Polyakov who is set to accomplish a new record of 429 days in space.

Besides food and oxygen, the module was also carrying equipment for a variety of research projects that Russia is due to carry out jointly with the West. These include a mission with the European Space Agency, under which Ulf Merbold, a German, is to be sent up to Mir next month: the scrapping of this mission would have cost Moscow \$63 million (£41 million). The future of the space programme is now heavily dependent on Western contracts.

GUIDE TO COURSES IN THE ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

continued from page 10

MODULAR SCHEMES

City Coll. Norwich: Y300
Glamorgan: Y300 (12)
Lampeter: Y400
Middlesex: Y400
Nottingham Trent: Y400

MUSIC

Anglia: EW73 (12), W300
Bath Coll: Y400
Canterbury Christ Church Coll: LW23, WY13, WY31, WY33, WY35, WY37, WY39, WY41, WY43, WY45, WY47, WY49, WY51, WY53, WY55, WY57, WY59, WY61, WY63, WY65, WY67, WY69, WY71, WY73, WY75, WY77, WY79, WY81, WY83, WY85, WY87, WY89, WY91, WY93, WY95, WY97, WY99, WY101, WY103, WY105, WY107, WY109, WY111, WY113, WY115, WY117, WY119, WY121, WY123, WY125, WY127, WY129, WY131, WY133, WY135, WY137, WY139, WY141, WY143, WY145, WY147, WY149, WY151, WY153, WY155, WY157, WY159, WY161, WY163, WY165, WY167, WY169, WY171, WY173, WY175, WY177, WY179, WY181, WY183, WY185, WY187, WY189, WY191, WY193, WY195, WY197, WY199, WY201, WY203, WY205, WY207, WY209, WY211, WY213, WY215, WY217, WY219, WY221, WY223, WY225, WY227, WY229, WY231, WY233, WY235, WY237, WY239, WY241, WY243, WY245, WY247, WY249, WY251, WY253, WY255, WY257, WY259, WY261, WY263, WY265, WY267, WY269, WY271, WY273, WY275, WY277, WY279, WY281, WY283, WY285, WY287, WY289, WY291, WY293, WY295, WY297, WY299, WY301, WY303, WY305, WY307, WY309, WY311, 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Cubans clash at UN as refugee wrangle drags on

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND DAVID ADAMS IN HAVANA

CUBA and America entered the second day of talks in New York yesterday amid demonstrations outside Havana's mission to the United Nations and indications that both sides were struggling to reach a deal that would halt the tide of refugees crossing the Straits of Florida.

Police arrested two protesters as nearly 300 pro- and anti-Castro demonstrators clashed outside the mission before the talks started. In Miami, the US Coast Guard said that the number of Cuban raft people picked up in the 90-mile stretch of water has averaged 2,000 in recent days, bringing a total of more than 20,000 who have set sail for Florida since early August after a riot erupted in the streets of Havana.

According to Cuban and American officials, the immigration talks had some way to go before there could be a serious meeting of minds between the two sides but American negotiators were confident last night that they could find a solution.

The first round of talks had been dominated by explanations of a proposed new American policy, which would guarantee a large annual migration of Cubans. Since 1984, a maximum of 27,000 visas have been available through the American Interests Section in Havana but rarely more than 3,000 qualified, leading to complaints that Washington was blocking immigration to stimulate a small but damaging exodus from the Caribbean island.

The Cubans have consistently sought to use the talks to call for the elimination of a crippling trade embargo that represents Havana's main grievance with the United States. The Americans, however, have insisted that they will only discuss immigration matters and President Clinton has said repeatedly that he will not debate the embargo until President Castro asks to restore democracy.

Economists in Cuba believe that a slow free market economic reform process is under way, but that it is being held

up by Washington's refusal to lift the 30-year embargo. As an example they cite a small farm outside Havana, where chickens and ducks run around a courtyard and pigs stick their noses in the mud. Everything looks normal until two Havana residents arrive and ask what is for sale.

In Communist Cuba, by law farmers must sell directly to the state at fixed prices in local pesos, although there has been talk of creating a "free, farmers' market". Here, the independent farmers have taken matters into their own hands. "Why should I sell to the state in pesos when there is nothing to buy in pesos?" Ismael Rodriguez demanded.

For \$30 (£19.50) the men from Havana fill up a car with cobs of corn, yuca, malanga, melons, a turkey, a side of pork and garlic cloves.

Señor Rodriguez said that he has been operating as a clandestine private farmer since last year with eight farm

with an eye on foreign investment and free market economic practices, added: "To reform or not to reform, that is the question. The deterioration of the economy has been so dramatic that the main problem now is do we have sufficient time to continue a slow pace of reform?"

The Cuban economy finds itself somewhere between the devil of capitalism and the deep blue sea of economic collapse. According to Cuban government figures, GDP has fallen by 75 per cent since 1989, and so many factories have been forced to close because of shortages of fuel and spare parts that the country is operating at only 25 per cent of its industrial capacity.

Since the end of Cuban commercial ties with the former Soviet bloc, imports have fallen from \$8 billion in 1989 to \$1.8 billion last year. Fuel imports have dropped from 12 million tons in 1989 to five million tons last year. Exports have fallen 50 per cent, largely due to poor sugar harvests.

Concerned Cuban "reformists" fear that continued economic deterioration will lead to political conflict such as occurred in Havana last month. Hundreds of Cubans rioted after efforts to leave the country were frustrated. Dr Castro later relaxed Cuban border controls, sparking the exodus of 25,000 raft people that led to the New York crisis talks.

Few observers detect any signs that the pace of economic reform will pick up. "It remains an ideological question. The orthodox minds control the highest ranks of power," one well-connected former government official said. "Fidel and his generation made the revolution. They have survived against all the odds. They have reached this far with their ideas. Genuine reform would mean renouncing their principles."

Cuba's leadership fears that economic reform must be carefully calibrated. Rapid reform could lead to Russian-style chaos and a resulting loss of political control that might spell disaster for Dr Castro.



Castro: reform could lead to loss of control

workers on his pay roll. He pays them ten times the government salary. He offers healthy bribes to keep state agriculture officials off his back. Of American pressure, he said: "Fidel [Castro] will never leave. We have to take matters into our own hands and show the way."

Arturo Rodriguez, head of the International Centre of Havana, a recently established business training centre



Love all: Brooke Shields gazes at Andre Agassi in the US Open. She says that she needs to be a good actress to control her emotions while watching him play.

Agassi denies love match on verge of marriage

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AS BROOKE Shields follows Andre Agassi's progress at the US Open a spokeswoman for the tennis player has said rumours that the pair are on the verge of marriage are "a big exaggeration".

Shields and Agassi have been companions for a year, however, and insiders on the professional tennis circuit now camped in Flushing Meadows say the actress who starred in *The Blue Lagoon* hopes to marry

the sportsman this Christmas. "I'm getting better at watching him play tennis but I do get emotional," Shields said at the tournament. "I have to be a good actress."

Shields said their relationship began only after a friend had been trying for some time to bring them together. They wrote to each other for three months before meeting, she said.

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Pentagon puts cost of Haiti invasion at £285m

FROM OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

AN INVASION of Haiti would cost \$285 million in addition to \$133 million already spent in the rescue and rehabilitation of Haitian refugees, according to Pentagon experts yesterday.

Initially this would be devoted to covering the cost of transporting equipment and personnel, food and logistics as well as combat pay for a leading force of 12,000 soldiers. The goal would be to restore the exiled President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to power within ten days of landing. The following seven months would account for the bulk of the cost, with 2,500 to 3,000 American troops remaining in the Caribbean country during that period.

A later replacement force of 6,000 United Nations troops to maintain order, retrain the police and reorganise the army has yet to be costed. The fact that officials are even discussing the costs of an invasion, albeit unofficially, is a further sign that the Clinton Administration is committed finally to sending troops to engineer a change of government in Haiti either peacefully or by force.

As the rhetoric from the Pentagon and State Department has become stronger, the arrogance of the military-led regime in Port-au-Prince appears to have dimmed. This week, the junta has permitted the distribution of 10,000 barrels of humanitarian fuel to various agencies after more than a month of keeping the diesel and petrol supplies sealed in a depot.

At the same time, the first group of more than 1,000 refugees accepted for asylum by the United States has been allowed to cross the border into the Dominican Republic before flying on to the United States. The refugees had been in hiding for more than a month after the junta, led by Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras, refused either US charter flights or Coast Guard cutters access to the country. The US has UN approval for an invasion.

Hillary's brother sets his sights on the Hill

BY TOM RHODES

HUGH Rodham, the aspirant politician and a jazz bar in central Miami flanked by Tony and Dorothy, his brother and mother. Notably absent is Hillary Rodham Clinton, his older sister, who is at Martha's Vineyard performing the holiday duties of First Lady of the United States.

A small group of Mr Rodham's supporters has been invited to Tobacco Road to donate funds to his campaign to be senator for Florida. Next Thursday, the retired First Brother-in-Law will discover whether he has won the Democratic primary and is to stand against "Cosmic Mack", Florida's Republican senator for six years.

Mr Rodham, 44, takes the microphone calling for support for President Clinton whom he says has been betrayed by his party. "We have guys running away from him. We need to stop talking about this and start doing something about it."

Since his decision to leave the public defender's office in Dade County and stand for the Senate, however, there has been little support for his campaign from either the President or his wife. Hugh Rodham is clearly viewed as a political liability in Washington.

He sacked Michael Coppersmith, his campaign manager, who last month said that Mr Rodham had not reported some campaign donations to the Federal Elections Commission. The candidate who has boasted about his work in diverting first-time drug users from a life in prison has also admitted that he snatched marriages several years ago.

Critics say that Mr Rodham is a gutless civil servant carried away with the political success of his family. "I do not want to be a



Rodham: seen as a political liability

politician and I am not a politician," he says. "I am a man of the people and all I want to do is serve the people." Most political observers believe that Mr Rodham has a better than average chance of winning the primary. The election in November will be a different matter. One of Mr Mack's aides yesterday referred to the Rodham challenge as "a complete joke which has no chance of success".

As the fundraising campaign, which has collected \$250,000 (£162,000) to Mr Mack's \$2.6 million, heads into the night, Dorothy is asked about her own chances of winning in November. "I don't talk to reporters," spits the matriarch. It is a very long way from Tobacco Road to Capitol Hill.

US bans nine foreign airlines as safety risk

BY TOM RHODES

THE United States yesterday released a list of nine countries whose commercial airlines will not be allowed to fly to America unless they comply with international safety standards.

Over the past few months, Belize, the Dominican Republic, The Gambia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Paraguay, Ghana and Zaire have all been told that their airlines may not fly America unless safety flaws, based on factors such as airport safety, air-traffic control and government aviation regulations, are corrected.

Compiled as part of the first worldwide survey of 93 governments by the Federal Aviation Administration, the table has also followed the Clinton doctrine of open government by reversing the organisation's normal practice of keeping the names secret.

The countries have been told that they may work with third countries to certify com-

pliance with international regulations or they may lease United States aeroplanes with American crews to operate their services under the national flag, thus providing the aviation administration with direct jurisdiction over safety.

Officials said yesterday that Ghana, Zaire and The Gambia had dropped plans to fly to America and the other six countries had decided to take up the leasing option. Four other countries, Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala and the Antilles were given "conditional" ratings that allow them to continue to fly into America under increased scrutiny from the aviation authority.

The list includes 30 nations, which form the first round of the assessment. Administration teams are conducting surveys in other countries, most notably China and Russia, which have reported several aviation disasters in the past few years.

The administration sends

four people to each country to discover whether there is a civil aviation authority, the required expertise and a genuine inclination to enforce the safety standards of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Several European countries objected to the inspections when they were proposed last year, citing sovereignty, but American officials pointed out then that they could deny landing rights to any airline. In fact, of the 63 countries still being surveyed 22 have co-operative agreements with America and they are bound to be found capable. These include Britain and the 17 other European nations of the Joint Aviation Agreement as well as Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Few African and South American countries have complained of the inquiries. Officials said that many had taken advantage of the inspections to improve safety standards.

Greasy Riders finish 3,000-mile odyssey

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

FOUR San Francisco women in bright orange waitress uniforms have completed what they believe is the first transcontinental journey powered entirely by lard and used oil from deep fat fryers. They now hope to make it the subject of a high cholesterol road movie.

In a 3,000-mile odyssey powered by the idealism of the Sixties, the environmentalism of the Nineties and hundreds of gallons of fat, the "Greasy Riders" travelled coast-to-coast stopping for fuel only at hamburger joints, greasy spoon cafés and fried fish stands.

Florence Dore, Nicki Cousins, Sara Lewison and Julie Konop bought a 1984 Chevrolet diesel van for \$1,500 (£974) in New Jersey and drove it via Detroit, the home of the American motor industry to the San Francisco birthplace of the hippy movement, arriving last week to a reception hosted by a pop band somewhat aggressively named Roadkill.

Lard and vegetable oil, once strained and topped up with methanol, can be used in any diesel engine without mechanical modification or loss of performance, said Miss Dore, the spokeswoman for the group. Their van averaged 24 miles to the gallon over the 17-day journey and could cruise happily

at 70mph. Its top speed was 86mph, Miss Dore said. "It was the challenge of being able to make our own fuel from a standpoint of total ignorance" that attracted Miss Dore to the calorie-venture. She also hoped to point out to the shopping malls and fast food eateries of middle America that diesel cars can run on low-emission "biodiesel" with no mechanical modifications and no loss of performance.

Filling up took longer than at a petrol station, Miss Dore admits. Mixing a tank full of used vegetable oil, or in one case a donation of pure animal lard from the University of Idaho, with a top-up of Methanol, could take five hours. The process yields combustible methyl esters for the tank and a sediment of glycerines which can be used for lipstick, soap and explosives.

The van's exhaust pipe gave out roughly half as much carbon monoxide as a normal diesel, Miss Dore says and no sulphur dioxide — the main ingredient of smog and acid rain.

The Fat Mobile spewed out as much carbon dioxide as an average car, but no more than the plant which produced the oil absorbed in photosynthesis while growing, the group found. Animal and

vegetable oils have been used before in diesel engines, including by their inventor Rudolf Diesel. American army tanks sometimes ran on vegetable oil during the second world war and many cars in Brazil nowadays run on methanol rather than fossil fuels. But most of the 24 billion pounds of fat used each year in America's fast food kitchens is recycled not as fuel but as chicken feed.

The Greasy Riders are seeking sponsorship from corporate America to fund a documentary. Will they receive backing from the major oil companies? "Fat chance," says Miss Dore.

At Birmingham: A federal judge in this town in Alabama yesterday approved the biggest product liability settlement in American history, paving the way for women around the globe to gain compensation for illnesses associated with silicone breast implants. The \$4.25 billion class-action settlement promises a virtual end in the United States to more than 15 years of individual lawsuits against nearly 60 companies. The implants are alleged to have caused a number of ailments including lupus and scleroderma, a progressive disease that affects the skin's connective tissues as well as internal organs.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Cambodian rebels release new film of Western captives

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN PHNOM PENH

THE plight of the three Western hostages, held by the Khmer Rouge, appeared to worsen yesterday with the confirmation that human remains found in Cambodia in June were those of two Britons and an Australian. Khmer Rouge guerrillas were believed to have been behind their deaths. Dominic Chappell, 25, a Briton, Kellie Wilkinson, 24, his Australian girlfriend, and Tina Dornay, 24, their British friend, were captured on April 11 while driving from Phnom Penh to the southern port of Sihanoukville, where the three had run a restaurant.

The confirmation came as the Khmer Rouge issued a video-taped appeal yesterday to the Cambodian army to stop bombarding the guerrilla camp where they have been held for more

than five weeks. They said that they would not be released until the attacks stopped.

The hostages, seized from a train on July 26, gave a graphic account — perhaps stage-managed for the camera on orders from the Khmer Rouge — of diving into ditches as shells rained about them day and night, killing local peasants and farmers. They evidently have little food, no medicine and scant protection from daily monsoons in the mountain redoubt.

Occasional artillery shells could be heard exploding in the background as the men delivered their messages, giving the lie to government claims that the base was not under siege. The attacks are in defiance of government orders, demonstrating a chronic lack of central authority in the country. The army high command had also issued orders two weeks ago not to shell the base on Phnom Vor or Vine Mountain, 90 miles south of

Phnom Penh. Such ill-discipline contributes to the military's ineffectiveness against a guerrilla force of about 9,000.

Mark Slater, 28, from Corby, Northamptonshire, on a trip around the world after giving up a factory job, looked thin but surprisingly well after lying so long under appalling conditions in a hut. He said that the bombardment was "killing peasants, the people, it's not killing the [Khmer Rouge] soldiers".

A ransom deal was to have been struck last Tuesday but we've heard that because the bombing hasn't stopped there is no longer a deal. It seems like the bombing is aimed at us. Nearly all the time the bombs come over. Please stop the bombing so the deal can go through. The ransom can be paid and we can go home to our families.

Mé Slater, David Wilson, 29, from Australia, and Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, of France, listed their food and personal



A still from the video-tape released yesterday shows, from left, David Wilson, Jean-Michel Braquet and Mark Slater, with a captor on Vine Mountain

requirements. "We have received absolutely nothing since the first ten days of detention. We are in a nervous state... our mental [state] is deteriorating day by day," they said in a handwritten note. They asked for bananas, coffee, chocolate, dried fruit, cigarettes, vitamins, instant soups, rice, soap, trousers and

a towel. "We've been bombed consistently, day in, day out," Mr Wilson said. "I understand we don't leave unless the bombing stops and then a deal can be arranged."

The video was filmed on a Reuters television camera by a Cambodian intermediary who has been passing messages between the guerrillas and

government negotiators. Mr Wilson all but confirmed that some footage may have been staged by declaring at one point that "we've been sort of told to say this".

He went on: "We plead with you that you stop the bombing. It is day in, day out, night-time, day. It is very frightening for all of us as well

as all the families and all the local people here. We jump into [trenches] all the time. It is just farmers and peasants here and I understand we don't go until the bombing stops, so it's pretty straight forward." The videotape, made available yesterday, was recorded on Thursday. By allowing the video camera into

the base, "General" Mou Paet, the local Khmer Rouge commander, hopes to increase pressure on the military to pull back in order to ensure the safety of the hostages. The Cambodian troops, however, are plainly reluctant to let three foreign backpackers get in the way of a chance to capture a guerrilla base.

ANC leader attacks English press 'bias'

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's English-language press was becoming a destructive force that threatened national stability, the leader of the country's economic heartland said yesterday.

Tokyo Sexwale, Premier of the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PWV) region centring on Johannesburg, said: "It has sunk to new levels of bias." Addressing a meeting of black editors on South Africa's second annual National Peace Day, he said that the English-language press was singling out the African National Congress component of the government of national unity for unfair criticism.

Mr Sexwale, a charismatic man who came to prominence after the assassination last year of Chris Hani, the South African Communist Party leader, has clearly been stung by criticism in Johannesburg newspapers, particularly of the central and PWV governments' level of spending and the appointment of people to official posts at inflated salaries. He singled

out the editors of the mass-circulation Johannesburg Sunday Times and the Sowetan, the biggest selling daily, read mostly by blacks.

In a personal column in the Sunday Times, Ken Owen, the editor, wrote last week: "His Regional Highness, Tokyo Sexwale, an impatient man, is appointing people he 'knows and trusts' — the phrase would grace the broadsword — to government jobs at double the normal salaries. Mr Sexwale wants to do good on a grand scale and he is not a man to let mere laws or regulations stand in his way."

Mr Owen also noted that when the National Party came to power one of its first actions was the appointment of a commission of inquiry into the press which sat for 13 years and laid the basis for a regime of secretive duplicity that lasted until this year. He added: "The ANC has tried, with genuine concern, to strip away the veils of deceit."

Aggrey Klaaste, editor of The Sowetan, wrote in an editorial two days ago that the country's MPs were interested only in adding "more coaches to the gravy train" and that it was "a sickening spectacle". He said: "Our honourable members have asked the Cab-

net to approve a 3,000 rands (666p) monthly constituency allowance. The fact that none has a constituency (parliamentary representation) seems to be neither here nor there. This addition will push their annual package to a whopping 229,200 rands."

Such harsh criticism was extremely rare during the apartheid era when the government enacted more than 200 laws inhibiting press freedom. In the mid-1980s the state of emergency compelled papers to observe self-censorship. One South African editor time said producing a newspaper then was like walking blindfold through a minefield.

Government responsibility for the media falls under Fello Jordan, Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting, but critics believe there is no need for any form of ministerial control.

Doug Band, chief executive of Argus Publishing, the country's biggest newspaper house, has said that the constitutional court should mediate, while Raymond Louw, vice-chairman of the Freedom of Expression Institute and former editor, believes that newspaper registration is all the regulation needed.



Tokyo: Stewardesses on Japan Air Lines are to wear Minnie Mouse ears as part of a publicity campaign.

Two JAL jets on domestic routes have been decorated with Disney cartoon characters and a third such plane will start flying tomorrow. The airline is spending £2.2 million on the campaign in response to All Nippon Airways painting one of its Boeing 747s to look like a whale. JAL has reported losses for three years because of weak demand, the higher yen and high operating costs. Some stewardesses say wearing Minnie mice ears would make them look silly. "We're not children," one said. The flight attendants' union is trying to get the plan amended but JAL says it has no intention of changing the idea. An airline spokesman said those opposed to wearing the ears were in a minority. "I think they are just a little bit shy," he said. "I'm sure they will get used to it." (AP)

Lottery sends Germans into gambling frenzy

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A HUGE lottery jackpot of £12 million has sent the German nation into a gambling frenzy. The winning ticket should be drawn today and about 40 million Germans — half the population — have been queuing at their local Loto outlet to invest in the dream.

Tabloid newspapers have calculated exactly how much the super jackpot of DM35 million can buy the winner: 27 luxury villas in Frankfurt, 8,098 transatlantic crossings at the normal airfare, seven Leopard combat tanks or the particularly exciting prospect of 923,483 cream cheesecakes.

Lottery fever has spread to Austria and the border crossing in Bavaria was blocked yesterday with cars and busloads of people determined to fill in the form before the Saturday draw. Burglars in Erfurt cracked a safe and stole 666 blank Loto forms in the hope of recovering their biggest illicit haul.

The number of the winning ticket will be read out soon after the football results. Restaurants have specially installed television sets and are already offering Loto dinners, promising that they will be served by the time of the draw. Indigestion is guaranteed for millions of punters.

The jackpot has swollen to

£12 million because for nine weeks there has been no winner. The successful ticket has to secure the correct six numbers out of a possible 49, an additional "super number" and then the six correct numbers separately again. The chances of winning are placed at one in 140,000,000. But that has not dulled the confidence of the punters.

Lotteries, usually run by the 16 provincial states, are big business in Germany. About half the pot goes in tax-free prize money, and the rest goes in profit, administration costs and a 16.6 per cent tax to the federal government. But the winner has to be careful; many of the 3,000 Loto mil-

lionaires have found themselves in trouble with the taxman. About half the interest earned on the £12 million jackpot will be taxed and any attempt to give away the money will also be penalised.

Loto punters yesterday were promising themselves a Ferrari or a world cruise. But research by Norman Albers, the bookmakers, shows that most end up buying houses or new furniture.

This week's two winners of the regional West-Loto netted £2 million each. One winner, a 22-year-old electrician, said he would finance his education, and the other, a 40-year-old teacher, said he would buy the house he was renting and a new fishing rod. According to the research by Herr Albers, a large proportion of Loto gamblers are civil servants.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, was prompted yesterday to tell the public his office had nothing to do with the lottery, which is run by a state agency, following a satirical television programme.

The ministry was flooded with protest calls from Germans after the television show on Thursday night suggested jokingly that Herr Waigel was manipulating the lottery drawings to boost government tax revenues.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teenagers 'executed' boy killer

Chicago: Two teenagers have been charged with the murder of Robert Sandifer, 11, a fellow gang member and himself a wanted killer. Police said he was "executed" for focusing attention on the gang.

Sandifer was said to have killed a girl of 14 and wounded two boys near his home last Sunday night. (Reuters)

Jailed for life

New Orleans: Lester Jones, 33, was imprisoned for life here for the 1992 murder of Julie Scott, from Manchester, who was shot during an attempted robbery while out walking with her fiancé. (AP)

Spy extradited

Rome: Michele Finocchii, 58, former chief of staff of Italy's civilian intelligence service, has been extradited from Switzerland for trial with six others on charges of embezzling £23 million. (Reuters)

Shot by lamb

Sydney: Anne Moulding, 29, a farm hand made paraplegic when a lamb kicked a loaded rifle, firing a shot into her body, has been awarded £1 million in damages by an Australian court. (Reuters)

Serbs threaten to cut off Sarajevo food

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO



Karadzic urged Pope to call off planned visit to Bosnia

THE Bosnian Serbs are increasing pressure on Sarajevo before next week's scheduled visit of the Pope, threatening to cut off the city's utilities and food supplies and to close the airport.

Radovan Karadzic, the Serb leader, said "sanctions" would be imposed against the city and the eastern enclaves in response to Serbia's fuel and arms embargo against the Bosnian Serbs. "You can expect within the next few days the strictest possible sanctions against the Muslims until Yugoslavia lifts its embargo against us," Dr Karadzic said.

The previous day the United Nations said it had received assurances from the Bosnian Serb leadership that they would restore the gas supplies to the Bosnian capital cut off for nearly a week. Throughout the war the Serbs have regularly stopped or reduced

supplies into the city to reinforce their siege. Residents are alarmed at the prospect of spending a third winter with the rebel Serbs in control of vital utilities and food supply lines.

"We have the full right to impose sanctions against the Muslims, to prevent even a bird from flying to them, until the world compels Yugoslavia to lift economic sanctions," Dr Karadzic said.

Two weeks ago, he urged the Pope to reconsider his trip to Sarajevo and said: "We did not give our own consent because of security reasons. I would not recommend it without full guarantees by all sides." The government of Bosnia-Herzegovina is hosting the visit and in Serbian propaganda the break-up of the former Yugoslavia is often blamed on a conspiracy by Germany and the Vatican.

Tensions near the city's frontlines

have also increased in recent days. Yesterday the UN said that Serb gunmen had hit one of its helicopters over Sarajevo with machinegun and small arms fire on Thursday. On Wednesday, two carsloads of journalists were fired on from two separate Serb gun positions as they left the capital's UN-controlled airport. Nobody was injured in either attack.

The Serbs have also stepped up their "ethnic cleansing" campaign in recent weeks. "Very heavy pressures are being exerted on the minorities which would suggest a final push to a Serb-only state inside Bosnia," said Nicholas Morris, the special envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Zagreb. The UNHCR said yesterday that 1,700 Muslims had been expelled from Bijeljina and that up to 600 would be forced to leave Banja Luka today or Sunday.

Europe hit by cigarette fraud

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH customs officers are investigating a multi-million-pound cigarette fraud in which cargoes of duty-free cigarettes are being diverted for sale in Europe.

The racketeers are exploiting looser European Union controls on freight adopted 18 months ago. Using forged customs stamps, papers and bribes, fraudsters in Britain and other Union countries are cheating governments of millions of pounds in duty. A standard load of 10 million cigarettes on a 40ft lorry can be worth between £500,000 to £1 million in customs duty.

European governments have set up an international team of investigators to stop the fraud by a number of groups including ETA, the Basque separatists. The racketeers are organised from Brit-

ain with dummy companies often using British lorries and drivers.

The fraudsters buy cigarettes in bulk from huge bonded warehouses in EU countries such as Belgium or from warehouses just across the Union borders in Switzerland and Eastern Europe.

The cargoes are free of duty while they are travelling because they have been bought for delivery outside the EU and duty is payable only at a cargo's destination. The cigarettes are supposed to be driven to ferries but are diverted to retail networks.

The organisers produce authentic-looking documents showing the cigarettes have been exported. Sometimes they bribe customs officers to stamp the export papers or they use fake customs stamps

that are being sold for at least £10,000.

Mike Newsom, Customs deputy chief investigation officer, said: "It's your thinking man's fraud. Criminals have seen a loophole, an opportunity, and taken advantage of it." Risks and penalties are low which could make it more attractive to criminals than drug trafficking.

The Freight Transport Association, which provides international documentation covering cigarette loads, said yesterday that it had suspended issuing any further paperwork. Richard Turner, an association spokesman, said the decision was made after an unprecedentedly high level of queries from customs agencies, mainly about cargoes being sent to Eastern Europe.

Loneliness is just one problem

And it is a fairly common problem for seafarers away from home for months at a time. But it is only one of the troubles that people bring to us. As a Christian society working among seafarers we are asked for all kinds of help—spiritual, emotional, social and practical. And we are there, ready to give all the help we can, in all parts of the world. To give this help we depend entirely upon voluntary contributions. Please help us to continue the Anglican Church's ministry to seafarers by a legacy, or please send whatever you can to

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Rights of the family in the Third World

Moves to limit the populations of developing countries are misconceived, Peter Bauer says

POVERTY in the Third World is not caused by population pressure or growth. Economic achievement and progress of societies depend on the conduct of peoples, not on their numbers. It is a misconception to think that population growth in the Third World is a major threat to prosperity. The central issue of policy is whether the number of children people have should be determined by themselves or by agents of the state. The rest of the political discussion is froth and fog.

It is widely argued that population growth is a major, perhaps decisive, obstacle to the economic progress and social betterment of the developing world, the majority of mankind.

These apprehensions rest primarily on three assumptions. The first is that national income per head (as conventionally calculated) measures economic wellbeing. The second is that economic performance and progress depend critically on land and capital per head. The third is that people in the Third World are ignorant of birth control or careless about family size: they procreate regardless of consequences. A subsidiary or supporting assumption is that population trends in the Third World can be forecast with accuracy.

Conflicting views on mankind are discernible. One view envisages people as deliberate decision-making persons in matters of family size. The other view treats people as being under the sway of uncontrollable sexual urges, their numbers limited only by forces outside themselves.

In fact, most people in the Third World do know about birth control and practise it. In the Third World, fertility is well below fecundity: that is, the number of actual births is well below the biologically possible number.

Over most of the Third World cheap Western-style consumer goods have been conspicuous for decades while condoms, intra-uterine devices, and the Pill have so far spread only very slowly even when they are heavily subsidised. All this suggests that the demand for modern contraceptives has been small, either because people do not want to restrict their families or prefer other ways of doing so. It follows that their children are generally wanted.

There is ample evidence that rapid population growth has certainly not inhibited economic progress either in the West or in the contemporary Third World. The population of the Western world has more than quadrupled since the middle of the 19th century. Real income per head is estimated to have increased fivefold at least. Much of the increase in incomes took place when population increased as fast as in most of the contemporary developing world.

Some developing nations have combined rapid population increase with rapid, even spectacular economic growth for decades on end — witness Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Kenya, the Ivory Coast, Mexico, Colombia and Brazil to name but a few.

Conventional views on population growth assume that endowments of land and other natural resources are critical for economic performance. There is much additional evidence that works in the same direction. Amid abundant land, the American Indians before Columbus were backward at a time when most of Europe, with far less land, was already advanced. Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries included prosperous Holland, much of it reclaimed from the sea; and Venice, a wealthy world power built on a few mud flats. At present, many millions of poor people in the Third World live amid ample cultivable land. Conversely, land is now very expensive in Singapore.

There is no danger that malnutrition or starvation through shortage of land will arise from population growth. Contemporary famines and food shortages occur mostly in sparsely populated subsistence economies such as Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zaire. In these countries land is abundant. Recurrent food shortages or famines reflect features of subsistence and near-subsistence economies such as nomadic style of life, shifting cultivation, and inadequate communications and storage facilities. These conditions are exacerbated by lack of public security, official restrictions on the activities of traders, the movement of food, and imports of both consumer goods and farm supplies. Population growth need not lead to unemployment. A large population means more consumers as well as more producers.

DRAMATIC long-term population forecasts are often put forward with much confidence. But it is useful to recall the population forecasts of the 1930s and 1940s when a substantial decline of population, primarily in the West, but to some extent worldwide, was widely predicted. This earlier scare of a decline has come to be replaced by the scare of an increase in the Third World.

External commercial contacts by the people of the Third World, especially with the West, have been powerful agents of voluntary change in attitudes and habits, particularly in the erosion of those harmful to economic improvement. In these circumstances, a reduction in family size is achieved without the damaging effects of official pressure. It is widely agreed that the West should not impose its standards, mores and attitudes on Third World governments and peoples. Yet, ironically, the most influential voices call for the exact opposite when it comes to population control.

This is an abridged version of a forthcoming lecture by Lord Bauer

There's a breathless hush in American baseball parks to-night, as there has been every night since baseball players angrily walked out on strike more than three weeks ago. For Americans starved of the thrack of leather against wood and too proud to watch their children play Little League, there is now only one alternative: cricket.

The English game has long been regarded in the US as a sort of alien cult, and in a society where sport is delivered in staccato bursts with regular stoppages for commercials, the notion of a match that lasts up to five days, possibly without a result and with breaks for tea, has hitherto been dismissed as comical and bizarre.

But faced with the gaping void that was once baseball coverage, American television stations have begun broadcasting cricket matches, complete with subtitles to explain what is happening. Newspapers, meanwhile, valiantly wrestle with the unfamiliar laws: "Cricket is played on an oval field in the centre of which is a long rectangle called a pitch..." and so on, with much giggling about silly mid-offs and short legs.

It may be an uphill struggle, but at the corners of many US cities, ignored at any other time by the mass of the population, the crowds are slowly growing as the American public experiments, warily, with this corner of a foreign sports field.

During the World Cup, many Americans complained that soccer provided too few moments of raw excitement and not enough goals: these same Americans find the gentle pace of cricket quite baffling, concluding that the game moves, as one columnist put it, "slower than a blind date arranged with malice".

What is mistaken for inactivity is, of course, therapy. Like fishing, the deliberate pace of cricket reminds us of what it will be like when we are dead. It feeds and soothes the mind with its cumulative progress as a counterpoint to the hurly-burly of daily existence. Cricket is about the passage of time, as the grim reaper weathered at Lords reminds us.

What America truly needs is an extended dose of cricket to calm its frayed nerves and social strife. A man who is prepared to spend five days in contemplation of distant players clad in white simply does not have the time, or the will, to go out into the streets and shoot his neighbour. Cricket is already a drug.

"It would be good for America to have cricket played in all professional baseball parks during any strike," observed a US sports commentator recently, pointing out that "America could be weaned from a pre-adolescent game to one more befitting the stature of a great nation". Elegance, patience, poverty: these are not qualities valued in modern American sports, or much valued in America at all. Baseball players earn an average of \$1.2 million a year but are nonetheless prepared to go on strike to ensure they can reap still more. The highest-paid baseball player in the US, Bobby Bonilla of the New York Mets, earned \$31,000 every day — rather more than most county cricketers earn in a year — until he, too, went out on strike.

Our cricketers should act as ambassadors for the sport, we are often told, and who better to publicise the game in the US than Mike Gatting, now recalled for the Australian tour? Gatting not only looks like a corn-fed Iowa farmhand, but has precisely the skills that will endear him to an American public used to the boorish habits of baseball: he shouts at umpires, has a taste for the good life while on tour and, I feel

sure, can spit quite as emphatically as any uncouth dug-out baseball veteran. He is also, or was, a gritty batsman of remarkable fluidity and power. Instead of bemoaning Gatting's return to the side, we should immediately dispatch him to the US, a nation suddenly vulnerable to sporting colonisation, where a single television appearance could persuade the US public that cricket is not simply an arcane pastime for upper-class twits and Caribbean immigrants, but a game with its own sublimely sluggers.

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Our stately summer game is just what baseball-starved Americans need, says Ben Macintyre

By Jiminy — there's cricket in America

There's a breathless hush in American baseball parks to-night, as there has been every night since baseball players angrily walked out on strike more than three weeks ago. For Americans starved of the thrack of leather against wood and too proud to watch their children play Little League, there is now only one alternative: cricket.

The English game has long been regarded in the US as a sort of alien cult, and in a society where sport is delivered in staccato bursts with regular stoppages for commercials, the notion of a match that lasts up to five days, possibly without a result and with breaks for tea, has hitherto been dismissed as comical and bizarre.

But faced with the gaping void that was once baseball coverage, American television stations have begun broadcasting cricket matches, complete with subtitles to explain what is happening. Newspapers, meanwhile, valiantly wrestle with the unfamiliar laws: "Cricket is played on an oval field in the centre of which is a long rectangle called a pitch..." and so on, with much giggling about silly mid-offs and short legs.

It may be an uphill struggle, but at the corners of many US cities, ignored at any other time by the mass of the population, the crowds are slowly growing as the American public experiments, warily, with this corner of a foreign sports field.

During the World Cup, many Americans complained that soccer provided too few moments of raw excitement and not enough goals: these same Americans find the gentle pace of cricket quite baffling, concluding that the game moves, as one columnist put it, "slower than a blind date arranged with malice".

What is mistaken for inactivity is, of course, therapy. Like fishing, the deliberate pace of cricket reminds us of what it will be like when we are dead. It feeds and soothes the mind with its cumulative progress as a counterpoint to the hurly-burly of daily existence. Cricket is about the passage of time, as the grim reaper weathered at Lords reminds us.

What America truly needs is an extended dose of cricket to calm its frayed nerves and social strife. A man who is prepared to spend five days in contemplation of distant players clad in white simply does not have the time, or the will, to go out into the streets and shoot his neighbour. Cricket is already a drug.

"It would be good for America to have cricket played in all professional baseball parks during any strike," observed a US sports commentator recently, pointing out that "America could be weaned from a pre-adolescent game to one more befitting the stature of a great nation". Elegance, patience, poverty: these are not qualities valued in modern American sports, or much valued in America at all. Baseball players earn an average of \$1.2 million a year but are nonetheless prepared to go on strike to ensure they can reap still more. The highest-paid baseball player in the US, Bobby Bonilla of the New York Mets, earned \$31,000 every day — rather more than most county cricketers earn in a year — until he, too, went out on strike.

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A carbuncle for Brighton

The loveliest, and liveliest, seaside town in Britain is about to be blighted by a fair

When the cats are away, the mice do play. Last month you were chasing your tail from Bordeaux to Avignon. You saw every Piero in Tuscany and boxed the compass from Paxos to Rhodes. You deplored the ruin of Provence and sneered at the philistine Greeks. But while you were there, back home they plotted the rape of Brighton.

On September 20, Brighton planning committee will decide whether to permit the construction of one of the most astonishing structures in any historic town in Britain. It is a huge Blackpool-style funfair on a concrete raft over the beach in front of the Regency terraces of Kemp Town, proposed by a private developer in collusion with the council itself. Those who do not know Brighton must imagine a Ferris wheel and roller coaster and ten other rides set in 'The Mall overlooking Carlton House Terrace. With the Conference Centre and the Marina, the fair would complete a trinity of hideous bores on the face of this ancient resort.

I love Brighton. Its neighbour, Hove, is docile and rather dull, bourgeois Regency in style, gracious but without any pulse. I would never take Hove to a party. But Brighton trips the light fantastic. Turn east from the Palace Pier and you will see the chalk stack to rise above the shingle. Immediately the seafrost comes to life. Creamy bow windows froth and billow. The cries of sea birds mingle with the sighs of resting actors. From the intimate curve of the Royal Crescent to the windswept quadrants of Lewes Crescent, two miles of Doric and Ionic pilasters march out towards the heights of Roodcan. Regency Buck seeks Sloane Ranger. Rain or shine, Europe has nothing to beat it.

Whenever I see some new outrage perpetrated on Brighton by its council, I ponder Rex Whistler's satire "The Prince Regent awakening the Spirit of Brighton", hanging in the Pavilion. It portrays a naked, fat Prince Regent descending on a fair maiden by the sea. But the Prince did not ravish Brighton. He gave it style. He and the sea-water craze of "Doctor Brighton" not only created the Pavilion but sent those inspired architects, Busby and Wilks, east and west along the coast to build a Regent's Park-sur-Mer. In the 1820s Brighton outstripped Bath. Instead of

a smelly pump room, it had the sea, the bathing machine and eventually the pier. Kemp Town's great facades gazed out across the waves in noble obedience to their true benefactor.

If Whistler was unfair to Priddy, he portrays Brighton Council to a T. Its planning department is a disaster, a standing invitation for central government to meddle in local affairs. Brighton property dealings are known to be part and parcel of masonic activity in the town. The skyline is disfigured with random skyscrapers. In the 1970s, the council allowed George Walker to build an atrocious marina, jutting into the sea beyond Kemp Town. The marina has all the charm of a Mulberry Harbour awaiting an invasion. Brighton conference centre, the curse of the October conference circuit, must be the ugliest in Britain. Behind it along West Street, the main thoroughfare from the station to the sea, a dour pastiche of Las Vegas has developed, with rows of slot machine arcades, drinking parlours and saloons.

West Street is the pride and joy of a local businessman, Victor Heal. Brighton's postwar history has been a constant battle between the party of the aesthetes and the party of the philistines, between Jane Austen and "Brighton Rock", between the Pavilion and the races, between Regency architecture and candylights. Mr Heal is chief whip for the candylights. For some 30 years he has fought to preserve Brighton's appeal to London's Cockneys. He is the king of kiss-me-quick. The proposed Kemp Town funfair is on the site of his "Peter Pan's Playground", a one-time

children's area, under the Kemp Town cliff, which he has slowly transformed into a tatty amusement park. When Mr Heal was howled down at a public meeting last month by Brighton's regiment of up-market protesters, he seemed genuinely unconcerned. He had seen off the Mods and Rockers. He would see off the conservationist luvvies of Kemp Town.

Will he? Coastal Britain is sinking without trace. Like rivers, the coast was once a natural barrier. It delimited territory. Ships, planes and cheap travel have made coasts geo-



"The Prince Regent awakening the Spirit of Brighton" by Whistler. The Prince would have been appalled by the projected funfair

graphically obsolete. For most Britons the sea has become little more than a dirty swimming pool. The land that borders it is no different from other land. Literary archaeologists, such as Paul Theroux and Jonathan Raban, have recently sought out traces of coastal culture. They have unearthed fishermen and landladies, artists and beachcombers. They have found the occasional Victor Heal, striving to keep the trippers by bringing Disneyland to Palace Pier. Such characters are mere fossils in the sand.

What has already happened to the south coast of England is ghastly. Drive east from Southampton to Brighton and you pass through almost continuous suburb. Resorts that once turned their faces proudly to the sea are turning them back towards retirement homes and shopping malls. Drive west from Southampton and you will see that the same is about to happen there. The collapse of planning control over so-called "mobile homes" during the 1990s has left the Dorset and Devon coasts at the mercy of the bungalow settlements that blighted Sussex and Essex after the war. Only National Trust and National Park land is now safe from development.

We can sympathise with the victims. The economics of tourism has done to Clacton, Margate and Littlehampton what the economics of shipbuilding has done to the Tyne and the Clyde. Small wonder local councils are thrashing about in search of salvation, throwing up cheapjack conference centres, gambling arcades, marinas and funfairs. They have pleaded with the crowds flocking to the Continent to turn back, to remember their roots, to return to the fun of their fathers. Blackpool has had a measure of success. Its emporiums of bad taste retain their appeal to northerners with limited incomes and time on their hands.

Blackpool's brashness presumably attracts Victor Heal and Brighton's Labour Party. There is fool's gold. Britons can find funfairs anywhere. They are introverted amusements. They can be put in old docks and power stations, on mudflats and in

marshalling yards. They require no scenery. They can go elsewhere, even in Brighton. The quality that will draw Britons to their coast in future is its beauty, the pleasure of seeing light playing off water onto rock, cliff and landscape, buildings designed to reflect the changing moods of the sea.

This pleasure is not some fetish of an elite class. To see countryside and historic buildings is the dominant reason given by tourists for visiting Britain. Entertainment is important, but the appearance of Britain is the economic magnet. For Mr Heal and Brighton council to imply that visitors to Brighton are sightless peasants for whom beautiful streets, buildings and coastline are of no appeal is patronising nonsense. In future, such resorts will depend on a coalition of committed residents and tourists seeking qualities not available inland or abroad. In Brighton's case this quality is the marriage of architecture and seascape left by the Regency in unequalled glory.

Brighton's council must be open to a charge of corruption. It has an interest in the funfair as owner of the beach and has distorted planning procedure to push it through. The scheme breaches its own local plan; public consultation was abbreviated and restricted to the August holiday period. If the plan is approved by the council, I suppose that once again a Whitehall minister will have to stop a local authority from wilfully wrecking its heritage and its principal economic asset. What a miserable advertisement for local democracy.

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THE SOFT CORE

France and Germany are less sure partners than they seem

Two sets of thoughts on Europe's future emerged this week from Bonn and Paris. They both embraced the notion of a more "flexible" Europe, respecting national diversity and allowing for a greater degree of national choice over how and where to co-operate, themes John Major has made his own. Yet paradoxically, although this would seem to justify the British Government's claim that the European debate is moving its way, both sets of proposals treat Britain (and Italy) as peripheral to the charting of the European Union's future direction. Leadership, they state, can only come from Europe's powerhouses: Germany and France.

Reflections on European Policy, the paper by the German Christian Democrats (CDU) stresses the Franco-German axis as "the core of the hard core" of the EU. Days earlier Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, produced his own musings on a Europe of three "concentric circles" — a reworking of France's longstanding strategy of locking Germany into so tight an embrace that its waxing power in Europe will be safely constrained. For France, Britain is outside the inner circle; and there is an unmistakably combative note about the CDU's explicit hope that forcing the pace of European integration will compel Britain "to clarify its relationship" with the EU.

This verged on the tactless, and may be why Chancellor Kohl hastened yesterday to say — unconvincingly, since it was prepared under the direction of his most powerful ally — that his party's paper was not official policy, but merely "a contribution to the debate" leading up to the intergovernmental conference due to review the Maastricht treaty in 1996. The speed with which President Mitterrand reminded M. Balladur of the Elysée's prime responsibility for foreign policy had a different motive: next year's presidential race is off to a spirited start.

In neither case is there any need for Mr Major and Douglas Hurd to worry about the needling tone of these proposals. The

emphasis on "hard core" unity masks anxiety. The key debate in Bonn and Paris is not about Britain: it is about the instabilities and opacities of the Franco-German relationship. The key thing for British ministers to grasp is that there is now room for accord on a central aim: creating space for the different members of an enlarged EU to take such further steps to integration as suit their national circumstances.

The CDU paper is specific on this: without renouncing Germany's traditional federal enthusiasms, it declares that "we must accept that not every member can accept every step at the same time". It is hard to see how the admission of Eastern European countries, desired by both Britain and Germany, can take place on any other basis: to insist that they sign up to monetary union, for example, would effectively be to defer their accession indefinitely. Flexibility will also have somehow to be built into the common agricultural policy before the planned 16 become 20 or more.

Far from relegating Britain to the sidelines, the creation of a multi-tier framework which would enable the EU to fulfil its stabilising potential for the new Europe will require all Britain's skills as arbitrator. That is because behind the rhetoric about the Franco-German axis, there is justified anxiety in Paris and Bonn that the two countries are drifting apart.

There is at least the possibility of a split within the EU, with France leading a protectionist southern group of countries, and Germany the free-trading, relatively non-interventionist, governments of the more prosperous north. France and Germany are headed for collision on the future powers of the European Parliament and the Commission. The CDU challenge to Britain to "clarify its relationship" with the EU should therefore be enthusiastically taken up: now, while the new Franco-German mould has, despite this week's rhetoric, yet to form.

CHARITY AT HOME

Oxfam should not muddy its simple message

The inquiry by Oxfam into the possibility of an aid programme for Britain will startle many of the Third World charity's supporters. Fifty-two years after the Oxfam Committee for Famine Relief was set up to campaign against the British blockade of Greece, the organisation now claims that it is under a "moral obligation" to investigate the alleged growth of poverty in this country. Depending upon the inquiry's findings, Oxfam relief might soon become as prominent in some British towns as Oxfam shops.

This would be a matter for great regret. The implicit comparison drawn between Third World poverty and the economic disadvantage suffered by many in the West is highly distasteful. It is true that the precise extent of poverty in this country remains contentious. The Duke of Edinburgh's claim in June that there was no longer absolute poverty in Britain was greeted with outrage. John Major's description of beggars as an "eyesore" earlier this year also upset many people. Lobbyists and politicians argue furiously over statistical evidence. The exact location of the poverty line is far from clear.

What is clear, however, is that the difference between poverty in Britain and poverty in the most afflicted nations of the world is one of kind rather than one of degree. In 1973, Robert McNamara, president of the World Bank, defined absolute poverty aptly as "a condition of life so degraded by disease, illiteracy, malnutrition, and squalor as to deny its victims basic human necessities". This formula well applies to the skeletal figures who haunt our television screens when famine strikes overseas. It bears no relation to Britain, where even the poorest can rely on free healthcare, clean water, comprehensive education and the absence of war.

Oxfam is reported to think that recipients of its aid may feel patronised by help from a nation which has yet to cure its own social

ills. This convoluted reasoning says more about the sensitivities of the charity than of the people, which it helps in more than 70 countries. There has always been a *bien-pensant* fear that Western aid to the Third World has unpleasant overtones of colonialism and condescension. But to a starving woman seeking food for her children, the etiquette of donation is as nothing. What matters is that supplies arrive in time.

International charities are also occasionally tempted to intervene in the politics of their own nations. The results are rarely helpful to anyone. Amnesty International, for example, has often been excessively critical of Britain's human rights records — notably in 1988 when it took the extraordinary step of investigating the killing of three IRA members in Gibraltar in spite of the fact that a full inquest was being carried out. Oxfam crossed the line between legitimate advocacy of its cause and intervention in domestic politics when it lobbied for sanctions against South Africa in 1989. Charities have a vital contribution to make to public debate. But they must not be tempted to draw inappropriate comparisons between the injustices they address abroad and the quite different kind of injustices which their organisers perceive at home.

The worst consequence of such gestures is the confusion which they sow. Labour's response to the Oxfam inquiry — that the charity was "playing into the hands" of the Thatcherite Right by making up for the deficiencies of the welfare state — shows how deep this confusion can run. Far more serious is the likely reaction of Oxfam's donors, most of whom will be completely baffled by this new proposal. Fund-raising charities succeed because they identify and propagate a simple message of compassion. By adopting this new strategy, Oxfam would merely jeopardise the hard-won respect which it rightly commands.

WELL DONE, GIRLS!

Why Daisy did so well at GCSE

The success of single-sex girls' schools in this year's GCSE results is surprising chiefly in its degree. No fewer than eighteen of the top 20 schools in the GCSE league table are establishments for girls only. So too are the only state schools to reach the top 20. Thousands of Daisies seem to have pulled it off and put their brothers in the corner.

The evidence that girls achieve greater academic success when they are educated separately from boys is now virtually indisputable. Statistics confirm what observation would suggest: girls do better if they are protected from the attention-seeking competitiveness of boys. Only two of the top 50 schools are co-educational, which seems to show that the performance of both boys and girls is weakened by mixed classes.

But while it is understandable that girls should under-perform in mixed schools, the superiority of their attainments over that of boys in single-sex schools is less easily explained. Boys too do better when they are educated separately. But however much better boys may perform in single-sex as opposed to mixed schools, they are not doing nearly as well as girls. And the disparity between the achievements of the sexes is growing. Some of this effect may be due to self-

selection: girls opting for single-sex schools might be more studious and highly motivated. Such a decision probably also suggests that a girl's parents are supportive. Asian families who are ambitious for their daughters are likely to choose sexually segregated schools either for religious reasons or out of social protectiveness.

Heads of girls' schools often cite the greater maturity and self-discipline of female teenagers. But this difference between girls and boys has always existed. What needs to be examined is whether current educational practice or changes in the examination system positively favour girls — or effectively discriminate against boys. Some teachers have pointed to the emphasis on coursework in GCSEs as being particularly helpful to girls who are often more diligent and self-motivated than boys.

Others see the improvement in girls' achievements as a hopeful reflection of greater female confidence and higher aspirations. A more alarming possibility is that the relaxation of authority and formal structure in schools — even independent ones — has had damaging consequences for young males who are less able than girls to discipline themselves.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9NN Telephone 071-782 5000

Looking forward, cautiously, to peace in Ireland

From Mr David W. Bleakley

Sir, You say (leading article, August 31) that the IRA "will now demand its reward". If this is so, it is important to lay down responsible guidelines. In Ireland, for instance, there is massive support for the view that paramilitaries should get no medals for ending a war that the Irish people have never wanted.

The danger is that John Major and Albert Reynolds, basking in the euphoria of their well-earned historic moment, may be persuaded to go beyond what they have achieved and what is achievable. Were they to take on issues which would arouse old fears and animosities they would destroy the climate of peace which the Downing Street declaration, more than any other factor, has now made possible in Ireland.

It must be made clear to Sinn Féin that they can expect no "favoured group" status. Their IRA allies may not have been beaten on the streets of Northern Ireland (nor were the security forces) but Mr Adams and his friends have lost the battle that really counts — for the hearts and minds of the Irish people. After 25 years of violence, those who support the Union have been given constitutional guarantees based on the most impressive coalition of support ever assembled in Anglo-Irish history.

But even for Sinn Féin there is an honourable role to play at the peace table. Let them have the courage to recognise that they have lost this stage of the argument and that they are at last prepared to take on the task of democratic persuasion, which they are so anxious for others to assume.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID W. BLEAKLEY
(Minister of Community Relations,
Government of Northern Ireland,
March-September, 1971)
8 Thornhill, Bangor, Co Down,
September 1.

From Mr Andrew S. Raitton

Sir, For the last 25 years British governments have been soft on terrorism for fear of American opinion, so the IRA have murdered and wounded thousands and done billions of pounds worth of damage with virtual impunity.

The failure of governments to keep the peace has provoked illegal counter-terrorism which, over the last two

years, has been effective. The certainty of tit-for-tat killings has meant that the gangsters are losing their support in their own communities. It is the balance of terrorism which is bringing the opportunity for peace.

If this balance is not kept, the gangsters will pick up again the arms and explosives they are never going to hand in.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW S. RAITTON,
Bentleys,
Waltham St Lawrence,
Nr Reading, Berkshire,
September 1.

From Mr J. A. Long

Sir, What is to happen to the vast stocks of weapons and explosives held by the activists of both "traditions" in Northern Ireland? Is it realistic to expect them to be tamely surrendered, an admission to the world that the owners have been "defeated"? If they are not surrendered, however, how can the owners be trusted not to use them again, at the drop of a hat? How can a genuine lasting peace be negotiated while the means of violence are sold in the activists' hands?

I suggest that these arms and explosives, which though illegal have great value to their possessors, should be recovered in the same way as they were acquired — by purchase — but on this occasion by a UN agency, possibly headed by the USA, and funded partly by UN funds and partly by a special international appeal.

Yours very truly,
JAMES LONG,
7 Saint Mary's,
Tavistock, Devon,
August 31.

From Mr John Garnett

Sir, With the IRA at last realising that violence will not achieve a solution in Ireland, yet another amazing happening has been witnessed by my generation.

We have already seen the coming of Pope John in the 1950s and the warming of relationships between Catholics and Protestants after hundreds of years; the ending of the Iron Curtain, the Berlin Wall, and of Marxism as a serious political solution after seventy years; the end of apartheid; and now hope for both parts of Ireland.

Few generations can have been privileged to see such changes in what

appeared to be insoluble problems. It certainly brings hope for the future.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GARNETT,
8 Alwyne Road, NI,
September 1.

From Professor Anthony Field

Sir, It is very encouraging to learn that the Irish terrorists who have been killing and maiming for the past 25 years may soon lay down their arms and return to life-enhancing jobs such as nurses and doctors, teachers and artists, cooks and cleaners, accountants and lawyers.

Or may they simply move on to exploit their new profession and become terrorists for some other national cause?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FIELD,
152 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, EC2.

From Sir Ian Morrow

Sir, It is strange no one has mentioned, or apologised for, the treatment meted out to Catholics by successive Stormont governments.

The Government of Northern Ireland discriminated against Catholics in jobs, housing and education — several of the largest firms in Northern Ireland made it clear that they would not employ Catholics.

Yours truly,
IAN MORROW,
2 Albert Terrace Mews, NW1,
September 1.

From Mr R. R. A. F. Macrory

Sir, Whilst having no sympathy for the murder, barbarism, intimidation and greed of the IRA, or the ingenious evasions by Gerry Adams of the meaning of the English language, it seems to me that a demand for a commitment, before talks, to a permanent cessation of violence is analogous to asking a trade union, in a protracted dispute, to sit down to negotiations with a prior commitment to no further industrial action. Semantics on "permanence" should not be allowed to divert efforts from a more constructive dialogue.

Yours faithfully,
RORY MACRORY,
Heritage Field, Burton Dassett,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire,
September 1.

Vitality for athletes

From Dr Oliver Duke

Sir, Your letters of September 1 concerning athletes who have failed drug tests at the Commonwealth Games reminded me of a booklet given to me a few years ago by a patient. Entitled "Fitness for Athletic Eve", it contains practical hints for training and was written approximately 50 years ago by Mrs Muriel Cornell, a distinguished amateur athlete of her day.

In it she advocates the use of a performance-enhancing substance which is "supreme for creating and maintaining those abundant reserves of strength, vitality and stamina which are so essential to success in sport" and, indeed, "it creates nervous vitality — that will to win which is of such great importance".

The name of this substance — Ovaltine!

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER DUKE,
52 Lanercost Road, SW2.

Highland sting

From Dr P. N. Skelton-Stroud

Sir, Mr Christopher Sandeman (letter, August 31) queries the wearing of the kilt in the presence of midgets in the Scottish Highlands. One of my ancestors explained that the longevity of the Scots is due to just that combination — namely, that the kilt plus midget induces the Highland fling, an ancient form of aerobics.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL SKELTON-STROUD,
Sherrowood Farm, Fort Shrigley,
Macclesfield, Cheshire.

From Mr Colin W. D. McLean

Sir, Mr Sandeman is, by his own admission, new to Highland customs and practices. The kilt quite simply is the most practical garment for all weathers. In the Highlands, where weather more commonly associated with each of the four seasons can be experienced at any time of the year and within the space of an hour or two, practicality rules.

As for the insect life, I have in mind a seasoned fishing friend who, over a short break for lunch on the banks of Loch Brora, coined the phrase "Happiness is a midge sandwich".

Yours faithfully,
COLIN W. D. McLEAN,
Danes Vale Barn,
Gosfield Road, Wethersfield, Essex.

From Miss M. M. Macaulay

Sir, Mr Sandeman's ancestral blood has thinned. True natives are immune from the midge.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET MAIRI MACAULAY,
29 Inglewood Crescent,
East Kilbride, Strathclyde.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Faith and the funding of cathedrals

From Mrs Helen Bate

Sir, A few weeks ago I went to a wonderful concert in Grasse cathedral: the choir from the cathedral at Angers came to sing Gregorian chants for our pleasure. It was stunningly beautiful, moving and passionate. I was happy to observe that the man from McDonald's, who had sponsored the event, was as impressed as the rest of the audience.

What sort of snobism is it that allows some money to be acceptable and other money, apparently, generously offered, to be rejected? Can the public whose protests persuaded Salisbury's Dean and Chapter to reject McDonald's (letter, August 27) be certain that all other donations accepted by the cathedral are absolutely to their taste?

Yours faithfully,
HELEN BATE,
La Cantienne, Chemin du Moulin,
06740 Châteaufort de Grasse,
France.

From Lord Kenner

Sir, Some years ago I resigned from the Court of Advisers of St Paul's Cathedral because I thought the decision of the Dean and Chapter to charge for admission was wrong. One dark little side chapel "free" for "private worship" was neither here nor there: how can you distinguish between a "tourist" and a "worshipper"? Is it not a cathedral architect's chief purpose to turn every visitor into a worshipper?

St Paul's belongs to London, and should be open to Londoners, and to all others. Moreover, the London of St Paul's — the City — is rich enough to support St Paul's but wasn't, at the

time, being asked to. Now that the Bishop of London, English Heritage, and the Corporation of London are to co-operate in working out a proper future for the City churches (as churches, I hope, not secularised), they might perhaps stretch their collaboration to take in the cathedral that the churches belong with, and save it from its unlovely money barriers.

Yours etc,
KENNET,
House of Lords,
August 30.

From Mr J. R. Burden

Sir, As a retired architect, I have found it both challenging and exhilarating to be involved in first building and then extending a cathedral in Western Tanzania. In an Anglican diocese that has been expanding in numbers by some 20 per cent a year, building to cope with a congregation that approaches 4,000 has its problems.

Raising the finance of £25,000 with our Third World partners is one of those problems, but there are three words printed in Swahili on the diocesan notepaper which help to put my Western worrying into perspective: they are "Mungu Wetu Amilika!" which, being translated, are "Our God reigns!"

I suggest that when Lady Howe's commission on the management of cathedrals meet over here, they try affirming those words three times before each session.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BURDEN,
1 Westmeare, Hemmingford Grey,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

Iraqi refugees

From the Chargé d'Affaires (a. i.) of Saudi Arabia

Sir, Bernard Levin's article (August 30), on the condition of Iraqi refugees in Saudi Arabia, does not reflect reports by a number of visitors from the UN High Commission for Refugees who have visited the camps, as well as by other foreign visitors.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs Sadako Ogata, for example, visited the Iraqi camp at Rafha, on the border between Saudi Arabia and Iraq, in January 1993 and saw for herself all the facilities provided by the Saudi authorities in the field of food supplies, medical care, and vocational training as well as financial support, clothing and all other necessities. She expressed her appreciation of the high living standards which had been provided for the refugees.

On May 10, 1994, the High Commissioner for Refugees in Saudi Arabia, Mr Abdul Almazia Al-Solhi, spoke of the concern and care given by the Saudi authorities to improve the conditions of the Iraqi refugees in the

Rafha camp, in order to overcome the psychological difficulties from which they were suffering in exile from their homes.

In May 1994 a team from the US Immigration Department and officials of voluntary charitable organisations interviewed Iraqi refugees in the camp who wished either to be resettled or to join their families and relatives in the United States. Teams from other countries have visited the camp from time to time for the same purposes. On July 19, 1994, the resident co-ordinator of UN activities in Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Hassan Eissa, was quoted in the Arab media as saying that the services provided by Saudi Arabia to the Rafha camp refugees compared favourably with any similar services provided anywhere in the world.

Yours faithfully,
MOHAMMED AL-HUSSAINI,
Chargé d'Affaires (a. i.),
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia,
30 Charles Street, W1,
August 31.

Chilterns beauty spot in danger

From Dr Miriam Rothschild, FRS, and others

Sir, For over 50 years three chalk quarries below Pistone Hill in the Chilterns satisfied the appetites of a necessary but unbecoming cement works. With the recession, that activity has ceased, and new uses are being sought for the site by its owners. The works is to be redeveloped; one quarry has been largely returned to agriculture, and another has been skillfully adapted to form a nature reserve. We are alarmed to learn that the company wishes to turn the remaining quarry into a rubbish tip, receiving half a million tonnes of garbage a year by road and rail. This would take over 20 years to fill and it would be many decades before degradation of the material was complete; it poses a serious threat to the local environment, should the lining membrane fail and leachate contaminate the ground water.

This quarry lies in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, adjoining the National Trust's Ashridge estate, and under the gaze of walkers on the Ridgeway path, one end of which is near by at Ivinghoe Beacon.

Excavation was permitted in 1947, on the grounds of national interest, and on the basis of Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe's proposal that quarrying should cease just above the water table and the land be restored to the worked-out level. This remains wholly feasible: the notion that the hillside can only be "restored" by landfill is entirely spurious, and serves only to justify a continuing financial reward.

As past or present residents of the area we urge the county councils of Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire to reject this planning application. After 50 years of useful but disruptive mineral exploitation it is surely in the national interest for this noble stretch of the Chiltern escarpment to be allowed to regain something of its former dignity.

Yours faithfully,
MIRIAM ROTHSCCHILD,
GORDON BURNFIELD,
DENNIS FENNEL,
FRANCESCA GREENOAK,
RICHARD MABEY,
CHRIS MEAD,
c/o 65 Longfield Road,
Tring, Hertfordshire,
August 26.

Police caution

From Mr Michael Stevens

Sir, The concern over the proposed new police caution (report, August 19; letters, August 23, 30) leads me to question the point of having any caution at all. It seems blindingly obvious that if I am arrested, anything I say, or in fact anything I do, is likely to be taken into account in subsequent proceedings. It beggars belief that anyone should reasonably expect otherwise.

I am expected to know the law in advance of any activity I may undertake. Why then should I not be expected to take responsibility for what I say?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL STEVENS,
28 Haldon Road, SW18,
September 2.

Common cormorants

From Mr Osman Streater

Sir, If P.H.S. had the good fortune to work on the Isle of Dogs he would not have written nonsense about the rarity of cormorants in London (Diary, August 27).

A look out of a Docklands Light Railway window at Heron Quays is usually rewarded by the sight of at least four, and sometimes up to eight cormorants drying their wings on the jetty, not to mention an eponymous heron or two. Great crested grebe can also sometimes be seen.

Yours faithfully,
OSMAN STREATER,
Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, W1,
August 30.

Catch-and-release

From Mr J. B. H. Byfield

Sir, I am sure many of your other salmon-fishing readers would share my violent disagreement with P.H.S. (August 26) and his "test of the true sportsman" — throwing back the catch. Any sentient sportsman does not throw the catch back but holds it carefully, head upstream, for as long as it takes for the salmon to regain its strength.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BYFIELD,
Broad Ham, Burrough Street,
Ash, Martock, Somerset,
August 26.

Weather warning

From Mrs Winifred Lawrence

Sir, Since BBC Television introduced animated lightning symbols into the weather forecasts, we have had more thunderstorms than is usual, at least in this area. Ought we to impute them not to introduce animated symbols for blizzards this winter?

Yours faithfully,
WINIFRED LAWRENCE,
4 Orchard Leigh,
Austwick, Lancaster,
September 1.

PROFILE 21

Post Office chiefs who are pushing for privatisation

MELVYN MARCKUS 20

Our City Editor chronicles the Lonrho drama

SPORT 30-36

Colin Jackson: still looking for hurdles to clear

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES
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THE TIMES

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3 1994

SCI tightens grip on UK funeral trade

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

SERVICE Corporation International, the colossal American undertaker, has consolidated its grip on the British funeral industry with the agreed £193 million purchase of Plantsbrook Group, the second largest quoted funeral company it has bought this summer.

Once this latest deal, and the earlier £112 million contested purchase of Great Southern Group, are completed, SCI will carry out one in seven funerals in Britain. The 15 per cent market share held by the company that buried Elvis Presley and John F. Kennedy will then stand second only to the Co-operative movement's 25 per cent share.

But Bill Helligbrodt, SCI's Texan president and chairman of its British offshoot, said he had no fears of any problem with the competition authorities. "We don't have any great deal of overlap between Great Southern and Plantsbrook," he said. "We line up really well over the

country as a whole." Although SCI's entry into the British funeral business at the start of the summer has prompted approaches from a number of small family undertakers keen to be bought out, Mr Helligbrodt suggested that the company's next move might be on to the Continent.

"Obviously, we want to grow, and that's what we're paid for," he said. "We view the whole market on the Continent as being of real value to SCI."

The Americans have moved to take control of Plantsbrook, the second-biggest undertaker in Britain with 9 per cent of the market, with an agreed deal to buy the 46.3 per cent of the business held by Pompes Funèbres Générales of France. FFG is, in turn, 51 per cent owned by Lyonnais des Eaux, the French water and building company.

SCI, which has since May built up an 8.4 per cent holding in Plantsbrook, now has 54.7 per cent and is

launching an offer for the rest on the same terms as were offered to the French. It is therefore offering outstanding shareholders 175p in cash for the ordinary equity and 115p for convertible shares, with a loan note alternative for each offer.

The ordinary offer represents a premium of 113 per cent on the price in the market in May, before the purchase of the first shares SCI bought, and has the blessing of Plantsbrook's independent directors. It also represents 22.5 times the company's earnings for 1993.

The building up of SCI's stake in Plantsbrook has taken place in parallel with the bitter fight to take control of Great Southern. SCI, the biggest publicly owned operator of funeral homes and cemeteries in North America, found itself slugging it out with the second-biggest in that market for the affections of the very much smaller Great Southern.

Loewen, the Canadian funeral group, was the eventual loser, after two earlier SCI offers were rejected by Great Southern's controlling shareholder, the private JD Field concern. The Canadians had hoped to come in as a "white knight", and the battle was eventually decided by the City's Takeover Panel.

Mr Helligbrodt said: "I think we're going to be a big entity in the UK market, and we're very happy about that." Although nothing has been formally decided, much of the Plantsbrook management is expected to stay with the company.

Peter Hindley, the chief executive, said: "We welcome the opportunity for Plantsbrook's successful operation to be extended into a larger company in the UK, with the advantages that will ensue for the employees and the clients of Plantsbrook."

Mr Helligbrodt confirmed that it had always been SCI's intention to buy both companies, and that share purchases of both had started in May. "We old boys from Texas, we may be pretty dumb but we keep up with things," he said.



Lord Blakenham, chairman, in London yesterday. He announced a jump in profits

Pearson to sell Camco stake

By RODNEY HOBSON

PEARSON, which owns the *Financial Times* and Thames Television, is to sell its remaining stake in Camco, the American oilfield services company. Camco no longer fits into Pearson's strategy, which is to be a media and merchant banking group. The disposal should raise almost \$200 million.

Buyers of the 59 per cent of Camco that was placed last December were assured that, in accordance with US Securities and Exchange Commission regulations, Pearson would keep its minority stake for at least six months. Lord Blakenham, the chairman, said the time was right to let the remaining shares go.

Pearson sold at \$15 a share in December after the oil price suddenly dropped \$2 a barrel. It had hoped for \$19. Camco currently stands at \$19, so it should be luckier this time. The plan is to place 8.15 million shares, with an addi-

tional 1.2 million if demand is strong, and 1 million are being sold back to Camco.

Pearson increased pre-tax profits from £46.3 million to £69.3 million in the six months to June 30. Adjusted earnings per share rose from 5.7p to 7.7p. The dividend rises 7 per cent, from 5.375p to 5.75p.

Profits were boosted by the inclusion of Thames Television at the interim stage for the first time and by the rapid turnaround of BSkyB, the satellite television station in which Pearson has a 17.5 per cent stake. The television division made first-half operating profits of £18.3 million, including £10.4 million from Thames, up from £300,000 last time.

Newspapers improved their profits contribution by 66 per cent, to £36.8 million, and visitor attractions such as the Alton Towers theme park doubled their operating profits to £5.5 million. The new software publishing side

chipped in a maiden £600,000. Investment banking, with a fall in operating profits from £16.4 million to £13.7 million, suffered from the raising of interest rates in New York.

The biggest disappointment was books, which slumped to a £7 million loss from £1.7 million profit last time. Lord Blakenham said: "Books are very much a second-half business."

Tempus, page 21

Sorrell hits jackpot on pay

By SARAH BAGNALL

MARTIN Sorrell, chief executive of WPP Group, could receive a £1.8 million annual pay package under new contract terms revealed yesterday. He also owns an options package already worth more than £1.5 million on paper.

The arrangements are for a fixed term of three years but can be renewed annually. This vast pay, bonus and options package is likely to cause a storm among institutions at a time when they are already pressing companies to abandon three-year rolling contracts for directors.

A breakdown reveals that Mr Sorrell will receive a basic annual pay of \$1.15 million plus annual pension contributions of \$500,000. On top he is entitled to two performance-related bonus payments — which together could be as much as his annual pay.

According to WPP, Mr Sorrell is entitled to a bonus of up to 60 per cent of his annual basic pay, depending on the company's performance relative to its targets. A further bonus of up to 40 per cent of his basic annual pay is payable depending on the company's performance relative to its industry peer group.

In addition, he is entitled to receive share options or phantom options. He has already been granted phantom options over 2.2 million shares at \$2.5p and over 577,391 shares at 115p. These can be exercised in between three and ten years. Yesterday, the shares rose 1p to 120p. The new contract also states he will invest \$3.3 million in existing WPP ordinary shares, to be held for at least two years.

His pay was under scrutiny this year when it emerged he was paid by WPP as a consultant with a consequent drop in his tax liabilities. WPP's latest annual accounts say he was on a five-year rolling contract, then under review.

BUSINESS EDITOR
Lindsay Cook

WEEKEND MONEY

PROTEST LINE



Consumers' action groups are springing up all over the place. Are those who set them up biting off more than they can chew?
Page 23

LOAN LINE

Homebuyers are in clover, thanks to low interest rates and tempting offers from mortgage lenders
Page 25

PENSION LINE



Dorothea Symonds and her husband John are reaping the benefits of careful financial planning in retirement
Page 24

DIY LINE

More and more investors are choosing to manage their own portfolios. How should they go about it?
Page 26

Halifax issues warning on rate rise speculation

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE Halifax Building Society said yesterday that speculation about interest rate rises could have damaging consequences for the fragile housing market recovery.

Publishing its monthly property index, showing a drop in house prices last month of 0.7 per cent, the society said: "The underlying trend in house prices remains broadly flat and is expected to continue so until general consumer confidence improves."

For the first time in a year, annual house price inflation was negative, at minus 0.3 per cent. The society said: "Clearly there is no evidence yet of any recovery in the housing market." But it added: "The small fall in house prices reported for August should not be interpreted as a further downturn. House

prices continue to remain broadly stable."

The number of mortgage transactions was lower than expected, another indication of the weak housing market.

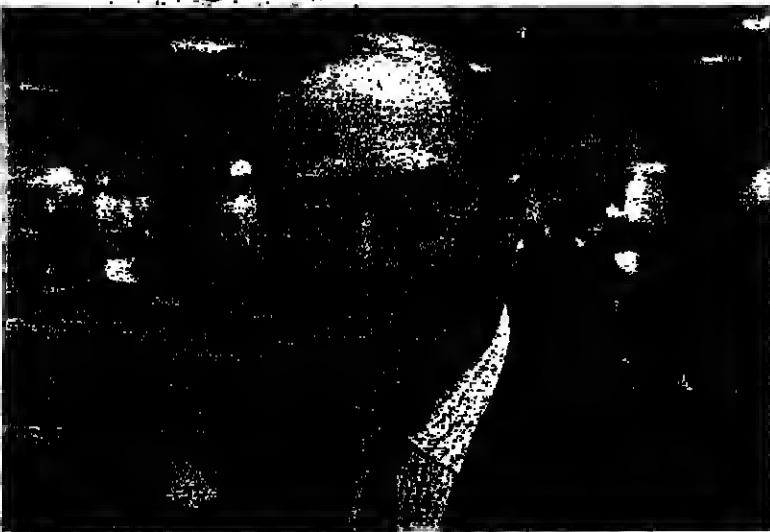
Prices paid by first-time buyers fell in August by 1.8 per cent after rises of 0.8 per cent and 0.7 per cent in July and June. The average price paid by first-time buyers is just over £45,650, 0.7 per cent less than a year ago.

But the average price of new houses rose sharply in August by 2.2 per cent, following a small rise of 0.1 per cent in August. Buyers of new houses are now paying £69,750 on average.

The Nationwide Building Society has reported a 0.6 per cent rise in prices. It predicted that house prices would mirror the rate of inflation by the end of the year.

SNC grandee steps down in Maxwell shadow

By ROBERT MILLER



Sir Michael "record is clear"

SIR Michael Richardson, one of the grandees of the City's grandees, is bowing out as chairman of Smith New Court, the securities house, at the end of the year.

Michael Marks, the present chief executive, will become executive chairman and Paul Roy, currently head of UK broking business, will take over as chief executive.

During a lifetime in the City and the freemasons, Sir Michael has made friends — and a few enemies — among the movers and shakers from politics and finance. He can count on glowing references from Baroness Thatcher to name but one, and he has also dealt with less illustrious figures.


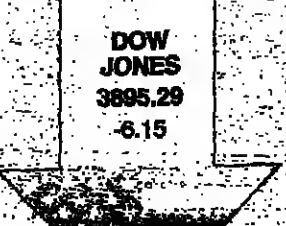
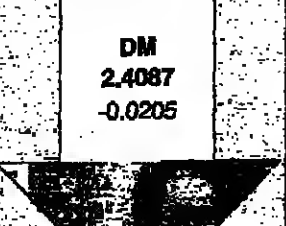



He has been stuck with the tag as the man who closely associated with both Asil Nadir and Robert Maxwell. Polly Peck, Asil Nadir's company, was

a Rothschild client during the 1980s, when Sir Michael was head of corporate finance.

Yesterday Sir Michael said that his record was clear on Nadir. "Polly Peck was already a corporate client of Rothschild when I joined. I personally took the decision to fire him as a client and since the mid-eighties I have never acted for him in any capacity."

But what of Robert Maxwell whom Sir Michael knew since the early 1960s when he was at Panmure Gordon? Smith New Court acted as broker to the flotation of Maxwell's Mirror Group.

He admits that his business relationship with Maxwell was a mistake. "He appeared to be behaving himself and I honestly believed the leopard had changed his spots. I accept now it was madness to get involved."

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MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 22; SHARE PRICES PAGE 20

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Lonrho's 'indivisibles' go to war

I was, I think, the first journalist to interview the "indivisibles". This did not, I hasten to add, reflect Tiny Rowland's overwhelming desire to familiarise Hans Dieter Bock, his new-found protégé, with my own peculiar charms: high irresistible as such a temptation may have been. My invitation to the dance owed considerably more, I suspect, to the fact that I was then City Editor of *The Observer* which, at the time, was owned by Lonrho. Rowland was proud of *The Observer*, tolerant of its costly characteristics.

I recall how Rowland ushered Bock to the seat at the top of the boardroom table. Bock politely suggested that Rowland should sit at the head of the table and he should sit on Rowland's left. An aide murmured, indiscreetly, that the seat to the left of the chairman's was "Tiny's traditional chair". Rowland burst into laughter and insisted "there is absolutely nothing traditional about this chair". Bock laughed too but de-

cided to sit at the head of the table. Rowland sat in the chair of uncertain provenance. The aide breathed a sigh of relief. Nobody seemed overly concerned about where I sat. I was, after all, one of the costly characteristics.

I asked Rowland: "How will the joint roles work? How do you envisage dividing responsibilities?" "There will not be any clear-cut division of responsibilities," he replied. "Think of us as indivisible." I turned to Bock who added: "It is important that we have a constant dialogue in order to reach decisions together. We have identical interests, the interests of the company. I cannot see the possibility of any conflict of interest between us."

This interview, on the sixth floor of Lonrho's Cheapside HQ, took place a little more than 18 months ago. The said floor is furnished in an understated manner, the carpet green. A relaxed, almost beguiling atmosphere where offices, doors open, spill out into a central corridor. The open door policy

dates back to 1973 when Lonrho's "straight eight" directors, led by the late Sir Basil Smallpeice, launched an abortive coup against Rowland.

Much has changed since Rowland and Bock first discussed seating positions. On the face of things, the green carpeted floor is now a battlefield: the setting for a war of attrition between Lonrho's joint chief executives. But, in reality, matters are not quite as straightforward as that. On a clear day — particularly if the duo are alone — there is still a dialogue. The clock stops: the power play is put aside.

On such days, Rowland does not make statements such as: "I am a fully paid-up member of this country's Inland Revenue club. I have always paid my tax in this country. Mr Bock, however, doesn't own a single asset in his own name, except his bicycle — and perhaps his wife."

Last week was not long on clear days. It was on Wednesday that the *Financial Times* proclaimed



MELVYN MARCKUS

that Rowland would be stripped of his title of joint chief executive at the following day's board meeting or, possibly, voted off the board. The former requires a majority vote, the latter a majority of 75 per cent, subject to the possibility of Rowland calling an EGM. Rowland did precisely this in 1973 but then he controlled 22 per cent of Lonrho's equity. Now he holds 6.4 per cent, below the 10 per cent re-

quired to requisition an EGM. It was also alleged that the cost of Rowland's services to Lonrho amounted to some £5.5 million. Certain aspects, such as Rowland's £1.2 million salary and his use of Lonrho's Gulfstream jet — costed at £2 million per annum — were hardly revelations. Word that Lonrho contributes close on £500,000 to the costs of Rowland's two residences in London's Chester Square and Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, are brushed aside by Rowland who merely admits to charging "entertainment expenses".

But the timing of a coup appeared strange. Sir Peter Youens and Paul Spicer, two of Rowland's close associates, have already edited from Lonrho's now 14-strong board. Deputy chairman Robert Dunlop departs at the end of the month followed, in October, by chairman René Leclézio. Both would inevitably vote in Rowland's favour, as, in all probability, would John Hewlett, perceived as a Rowland loyalist. It

was *The Times* — "swimming against the tide" as one BBC commentator put it — which predicted, on the morning of Thursday's board meeting, that Rowland would survive. What had emerged was that at least two of the maximum ten directors who might have voted with Bock had developed doubts. If Rowland's mantle of joint chief executive was removed, the publicity which Rowland's retaliation would generate would prove devastating. Not, at this stage, could Bock command the 75 per cent of the votes required to remove Rowland from the board.

In the event the board meeting, which lasted a little less than 2½ hours, focused, among other things, on Rowland's £200,000 sale of the Lonrho-financed documentary on the Lockerbie bombing to the Joint Arab International Investment Company, linked to the Libyan Arab Finance Company. This may contravene United Nations sanctions. Lonrho let it be known that press specula-

tion regarding Mr Rowland's role was "totally unfounded". It is also understood that the remuneration committee, led by non-executive Peter Harper and the audit committee, chaired by Sir John Leahy, has been reviewing certain items of expenditure for some time. By way of a sub-plot, Harper, who hails from Hanson, is reputed to have an eye on the seat at the top of the boardroom table. By sheer coincidence, Rowland was recently spied passing the time of day in the South of France in the company of Lord Hanson, along with Roger Moore. Rowland won out on Thursday but, denuded of his closest colleagues, power is inevitably slipping from his grasp. The trick, which this unconventional tycoon is presumably concentrating on, is how to achieve a theatrical, and preferably lucrative, exit, before grey men, in the name of corporate governance, blow him away from what he created. Time is not on Rowland's side: experience is.

Schroders lifts payout on advance in first half

By ROBERT MILLER

A SHARP increase in profits from fund management activities at Schroders, the merchant bank, helped to overcome a substantial fall in dealing income in the first six months of the year.

Fund management profits rose by £17.8 million, to £40.6 million, while the contribution from Schroders' traditional activities fell to £62.2 million, from £73.2 million last time. This was largely due to the drop in dealing income, which was down from £32.8 million to £18.4 million.

Despite volatile trading conditions in equity and bond markets, Schroders increased its overall pre-tax profits by 7.6 per cent, from £95.9 million to £103.2 million. The interim dividend was raised to 6p, from 4p. Earnings rose to 56.6p a share, from 55.1p, and net assets per share increased to 572p (474p). Capital resources increased by £64 million, principally from the retention of profits.

George Mallinckrodt, Schroders' chairman, said: "Although market values fell during the period, their effect was balanced by a continuing strong inflow of new business, and total funds under management showed a marginal increase, from £52.9 billion to £53.1 billion. This, together

with the gains achieved last year, more than sustained revenues and profits moved ahead sharply. All parts of the business shared in the increase in profitability."

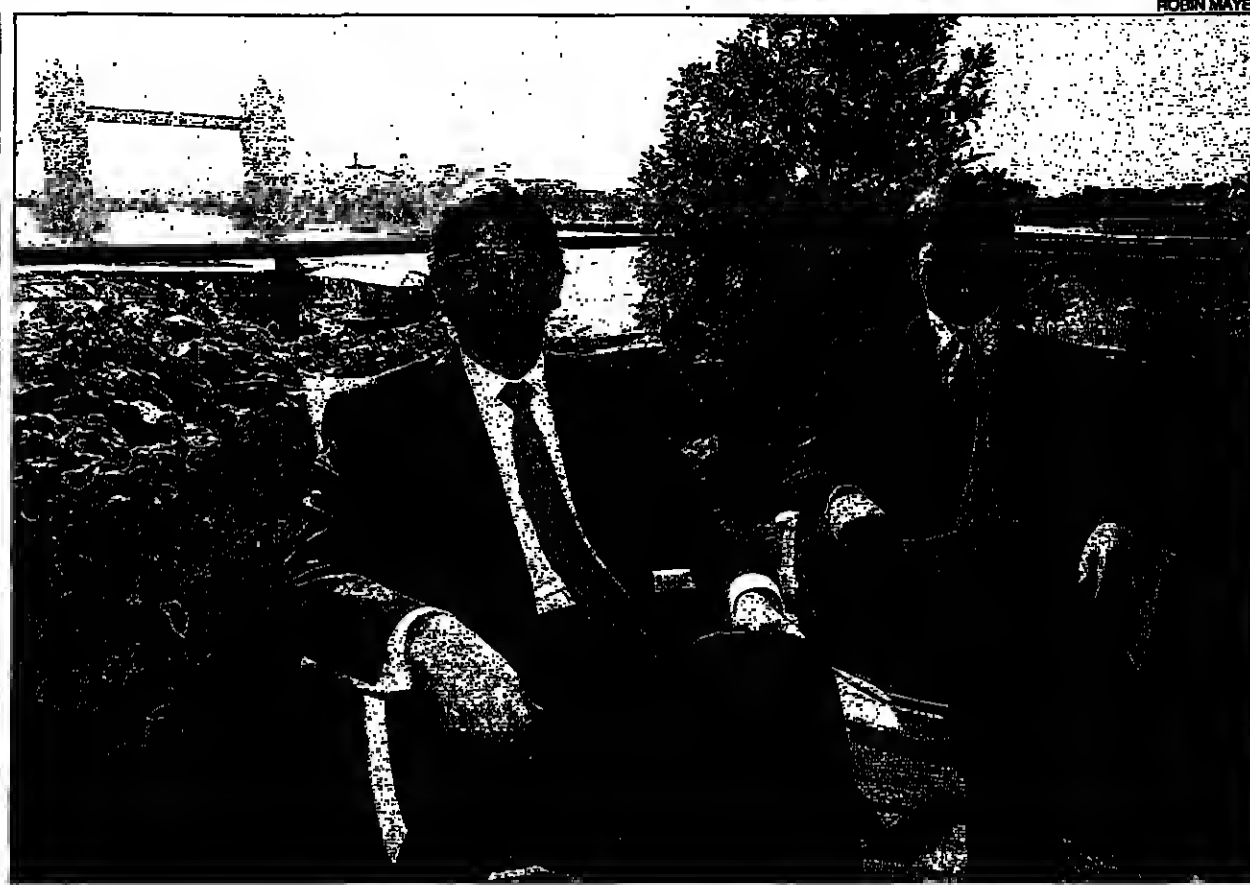
Schroders reported a pick-up in corporate finance activity as merger and acquisition deals increased. These included, in the UK, the £577 million takeover of Westland by GKN and, in the US, Huntsman's \$850 million purchase of Texaco's chemical assets.

Project finance business completed during the first half of the year included the Shah Alam Expressway, in Malaysia, and Royal Armouries in Leeds, part of the Government's private finance initiative.

Administrative expenses rose to £157.2 million (£132.5 million), reflecting higher staff costs and increased provisions for bonus payments to staff. Mr Mallinckrodt commented: "The larger part of our increased expenses was down to the additional 300 staff we have recruited so far this year, mainly on the asset management side of the business in the Far East and in the US."

He added: "We look forward to a satisfactory result for the year as a whole."

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Harvey McGrath, managing director, left, with Stanley Fink, finance director of ED&FMan, yesterday

ED&FMan may be worth £500m

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE "ultimate private company," in the words of its managing director, is coming to the market worth as much as £500 million. But 70 per cent of ED&FMan will still be owned by its employees.

Man, one of the best-known names in commodities trading but with substantial interests in food processing and financial services, will issue its full prospectus giving details of its market capitalisation and share price on September 22.

There is a public offer by Schroders, the merchant

bank, and James Capel, the broker, running for another week, and trading is expected to start on October 7. A final price of £500 million would be a little ahead of earlier estimates when news of the float broke earlier this summer.

This additional bounty would be good news for the 130 senior employees who currently own Man between them. The stock market quotation would make 50 of them paper millionaires.

The two biggest beneficiaries would be Michael Stone,

who has 8 per cent of the existing equity, and Daniel Rosenblum, head of the US operations, with 9 per cent. Both men's holdings would be worth more than £30 million.

"We're not exactly a household name, but we're one of the largest and most profitable British companies," said Harvey McGrath, managing director. "We're not just traders reliant on getting the market right to protect a profit."

Founded by James Man in 1783, the group had the contract to supply the Royal Navy

with rum for the sailors' daily tot, until the privilege was ended in the 1970s.

The group is raising £90 million of fresh equity, half for early repayment of a preference share issue. An additional £50-60 million of shares will be sold by existing holders. The fresh funds will go to expanding the asset base, most likely, by starting up greenfield developments or making purchases of plant in the food processing area.

Tempus, page 21

Drivers could profit from bus firm bid

BUS drivers will collect windfalls of up to £18,000 each if an £11.15 million offer for SMT Omnibuses by GRT, a rival company, is successful. GRT has won the backing of shareholders owning 37.9 per cent of SMT, which operates in Edinburgh and the Lothians, for its cash and shares bid. SMT was part of the nationalised Scottish Transport Group until it was bought out for around £9.5 million by management and employees in 1990. At the moment, about 200 of the 1,000 staff, including drivers and mechanics, own shares and four of the directors also have equity stakes. The majority of the shares in the group are owned by Yorkshire Bank.

Colin Smith, GRT's operations director, said a driver who had invested £1,000 in the buyout should pick up between £15,000 and £18,000. However, he added that the deal would not create any "bus millionaires". The offer for SMT is the second made by GRT, which is based in Aberdeen, since the company was floated on the stock market in May and follows the £6.7 million acquisition of Norwich-based Eastern Counties.

Renault motors ahead

RENAULT, the state-controlled French motor group preparing for privatisation, more than doubled its pre-tax profit in the first half to Fr1.72 billion and predicted a much stronger full-year performance. The abortion of its planned merger with Volvo gave Renault a capital gain of Fr488 million in the first half from sales of part of its cross-holdings. At the operating level, Renault's profit slipped to Fr688 million from Fr774 million, on almost stagnant turnover of Fr89.8 billion.

Govett expands in US

GOVETT, the fund management group registered in Jersey, has announced a distribution deal with American Capital Marketing, the US mutual fund manager, as part of its plans to expand in the US retail market. American Capital will take on responsibility for the distribution of Govett's range of international funds in the US. Govett has \$300 million of retail funds under management in the US and looks after \$1.5 billion of institutional money.

Argent in two land deals

ARGENT Group, the newly floated property company, has announced two deals involving a total of more than £23 million. It bought 28 acres of land on the Thames Valley Park in Reading, Berkshire, for £17.4 million from Oracle, the US computer group, and then immediately sold seven of the 28 acres to British Gas for £5.8 million. Argent, which floated in June, plans to develop about 300,000 sq ft of offices at Thames Valley in several buildings.

GEC orders 'satisfactory'

GEC's three core businesses — electronic systems, power systems and telecommunications — continue to win orders at "satisfactory" rates, Lord Prior, the chairman, told the annual meeting yesterday. "The slow improvement in the economies of the major territories in which we trade has been maintained," he said. Lord Prior added that sales and profits so far this year were "slightly ahead" of last year's levels, despite a decline in levels of interest income.

Hobson returns to black

HOBSON, now established as a major food producer after the purchase of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's food manufacturing business in a £106 million deal, has returned to profit. In the first half of the year, it earned £530,000 before tax, reversing a pre-tax loss of £544,000. No interim dividend will be paid, but the group is looking to pay a final 0.5p next July. Earnings per share rose to 0.23p from 0.64p losses previously.

Airtours sells plane

AIRTOURS, Britain's second-largest package holiday firm, has sold a Boeing 737 for \$18 million cash. The shares rose 3p to 459p. The aircraft was acquired as part of Airtours' £20 million purchase of Aspro Travel in June last year, and was carried on the balance sheet last September 30 as an "aircraft held for resale" at a book value of £11.9 million. In June, Airtours, as is usual for tour operators, reported a pre-tax loss — of £17.6 million — for the six months to March 31.

Rise and fall of US treasury bonds

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

US TREASURY bonds swung in both directions yesterday, reacting positively to news of slower than expected jobs growth in August but then turning lower after Columbia University said its inflation index had risen.

The US unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1 per cent in August, as expected, but job creation was lower than predicted. The Labour Department said that 179,000 non-farm jobs were created in August, much lower than the average forecast of economists of 234,000. July's jobs growth was revised down

slightly to 251,000 from 259,000 previously reported.

Such evidence that jobs growth appears to be decelerating was positive news for bonds because it lessened the prospect of another rate rise from the Fed to prevent the economy from overheating.

However, the more optimistic tone in the market was then outweighed by news that Columbia University's inflation index had risen to 111.4 in August from 109.5 in July, provoking fears that inflationary pressures are building.

The Labour Department figures showed nearly all the new jobs created came in the private sector with government adding only 4,000 jobs. Manufacturing produced 32,000 new jobs, largely reflecting strength in the automotive industry.

UK official reserves fell an underlying \$27 million in August, according to Treasury figures.

Delay threatens trade agreement

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

THE future of the world trade agreement could be in jeopardy, unless the leading economic powers take urgent steps to ratify the deal, Peter Sutherland, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), said.

His warning followed a call from Bob Dole, the Republican leader of the US Senate, for Congress to postpone a ratification vote on the Uruguay round trade accord until next year.

Although the ambitious trade liberalisation agreement was signed by 123 nations at a ministerial meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, in April, neither America, nor Japan, nor the European Union, the world's three biggest trading entities, have yet ratified it.

Britain, a keen advocate of freer trade, has passed the agreement in Parliament, but arguments over the division of responsibilities between the European Commission and

national governments have prevented formal ratification by the European Union.

Mr Sutherland has been pressing signatory governments to the Uruguay round agreement to meet the January 1 deadline for it to take effect. This would bring into being the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the GATT's more muscular successor.

But the bilateral trade battle between Japan and America, arising from the \$60 billion annual surplus Japan runs with America, has soured the post-Marrakech atmosphere.

Mr Sutherland, a former EU commissioner, said America, Japan and the EU had a "primary responsibility" to ensure that the Uruguay round agreement could take effect in January. The deal foresees further liberalisation of trade in manufactures and extends free trade to areas such as farm produce and services for the first time.

Arjo finance director resigns

By SARAH BAGNALL



Isaac joining BOC

ARJO Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper group, has lost its last remaining British executive director. Tony Isaac, the finance director, has resigned to join BOC, the industrial gases company.

Mr Isaac, 52, is the latest of a string of departures by the group's former British contingent. Mr Isaac had been at the company since 1990, the year it was created from the £498 million merger of Wiggins Teape Appleton and Arjomari of France. Stephen Walls, who

had been the group's chief executive, left in May 1992, receiving compensation of £775,000. Last December, Gordon Bond, the highly respected head of the printing division, left.

The departures of both Mr Walls and Mr Bond were said to have resulted from disagreements over the group's future development. One problem is rumoured to involve Groupe Saint-Louis, the French company that holds a 39 per cent stake in Arjo. Last

year, Groupe Saint-Louis was believed to want to move Arjo's headquarters from the UK to Paris, with the aim of playing a more active role in its management.

Arjo is due to announce profits for the six months to June 30 next Thursday. The City is forecasting flat underlying profits of about £80 million.

Mr Isaac takes over as finance director at BOC from Ian Clubb, who is joining Tiphook, the transport group, as non-executive chairman.

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THE POST OFFICE: Michael Heron and Bill Cockburn

Waiting for the Government's postal orders

The corporation's leaders are determined to build on success by taking up the challenge of the global market. Ross Tieman reports

Michael Heron and Bill Cockburn are on tenterhooks. The outcome of their two-year campaign for privatisation of the Post Office will be decided within the next few weeks.

Ministers at the Department of Trade and Industry, and at the Treasury, have been won over. But will the Cabinet have the courage to take on Conservative backwoodsmen, and the Labour Opposition, by bringing in a Bill to sell off 51 per cent of Royal Mail and Parcelforce?

Baroness Thatcher would never countenance it. Private the Royal Mail? No, no, no. Selling Rover, or the power stations, or the water authorities, was all right. Badly managed, draining taxpayers' funds, they had no place in the public sector, she said.

But the Post Office is different. It has a human face that trumps to every voter's door, every day. And it is a huge state-owned success. The Couriers business, with its 20,000 post offices (all but 800 of them franchised, a fact strangely forgotten by opponents of privatisation) has an annual turnover of £1 billion.

Royal Mail, the letters arm, delivers 60 million items a day to 23.4 million addresses, earning £4 billion a year. And Parcelforce, despite the challenge of private parcel companies, hauls 750,000 parcels and packets a day to achieve annual revenue of £500 million.

With its 190,000 employees, this £5.5 billion a year business delivers rising standards, and a hefty profit to the Government, every year.

Yet Heron and Cockburn want to whip it off into the private sector. In their interest, or in ours? And why have they broken the unwritten rule that says leading executives of state corporations never, repeat never, speak out on ownership issues? Just before Mike Heron became chairman of the Post Office almost two years ago, he invited Bill Cockburn, the recently appointed chief executive, out to breakfast.

Cockburn arrived typically bright-eyed, and luscious, but uncharacteristically nervous. Heron had a nasty hangover from a leaving do the night before. With mounting frustration, they struggled to find a formula that would enable them to work effectively, without trampling on one another's toes. Finally, Heron proposed a single golden rule — that "no one would get a cigarette paper between us". It has worked like a charm. Despite

apparently different backgrounds, they match with complete accord that the Post Office now needs to shift to the private sector to enable it to adapt to the rising challenge of technology change and competition. Yet they look such an unlikely pair. Heron is touching 60, round, grey-suited and thoughtful behind his glasses, he speaks with a slight lisp.

Cockburn is a shirtsleeves operator ten years his junior, articulate, ruddy-faced and still somehow boyish. The effectiveness of their partnership is based on nothing more concrete than common objectives and happy coincidence. No one at the DTI appeared even to have thought about how they would get on when they were appointed.

For the DTI, Heron's appointment was something of a coup. After 34 years at Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch firm and detergent group, Heron was an international high-flyer, a man with a solid track record of managing dozens of businesses in a corporation employing 300,000 people.

But he was passed over for the chairmanship at the age of 58, four years before he was due to retire. So he opted for two new challenges: he became chairman of the Post Office, and chairman of the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, the body set up to establish and administer a new framework of competence for skills training in Britain. He halved his salary in the process but both jobs, he says, impress him more than Unilever ever did. That is strange, because he is very much a Unilever man. Soft-spoken, plain-spoken, effective.

When he wants to explain issues, he produces a pad full of squiggles and sketches which he means, as a university lecturer might. You begin to get a sense of how they must work together. Heron suggests they have an empathy based upon similar roots: families of modest means, Catholic education.

Heron plays the classic chairman's role, counselling caution with the wisdom of age, experience, and ignorance of specifics. Cockburn, out of a Scottish school with his Highers and never since in a classroom, brims with energy and apparent self-confidence.

It is a point worth dwelling on. Cockburn joined the Post Office at 18 and worked his way on to the management fast track by diligence and determination. Two years as personal assistant to Sir



Heron, left, is an outsider from Unilever, relishing his final professional task. For Cockburn, an insider who rose through the ranks, the Post Office is a vocation

William Ryland, a former chairman, put him on the ladder to the top.

Cockburn knows the Post Office inside out and played a central part in its 1980s modernisation. His feelings for it are ones of affection, pride, and ownership. Through his long tenure, and personality, he has acquired an astonishing circle of contacts, both political and industrial. He inspires respect and confidence in those he meets, Heron included.

Heron, who is no slacker, is a great admirer of Cockburn's determination to get things changed. "My impression of Bill the first time I met him was that he was a tight ball of energy," he says. He has since learnt that while Cockburn is "enormously enthusiastic, he is very focused".

Quite so, Cockburn campaigns for privatisation like a terrier, harrying from all angles, dogged in his pursuit of that goal. "If we sometimes say things that are tough in the eyes of one constituency, so be it," he says. "I think you have to stand up and be counted."

He believes the Post Office has an important social role. He believes it should retain an obligation to provide a universal service. But he also believes it must adapt to a world of rising competition.

Just back from the five-yearly congress of the world's 190 post offices, in South Korea, Cockburn tells of increasing com-

mercialisation of postal services in The Netherlands, Germany, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia. When the congress next convenes, he says, a quarter of world post offices could be privatised.

"Our difficult message is to sell the notion of change to avoid crisis," Cockburn says. "The really smart football manager is the guy who changes his team when they are at the top of the first division, and doesn't wait until it is in the relegation zone."

But is the Post Office really facing death by slow decline in a public sector where it has hitherto thrived? Heron has no doubt that more commercial freedom is needed. He says the Post Office must be capable of meeting head-on the challenge of

privatised post offices overseas, private parcels carriers, and evolving information technology, such as the fax machine, which is eating inexorably into the core letters market.

Moreover, the administrative structure, under which the Treasury each year hands down financial targets, which are translated into budgets, is a poor surrogate for market pressures, he says.

According to Heron and Cockburn, a more commercial structure would oblige Post Office managers to deliver the best service at the lowest cost — and encourage them to find, and exploit, new channels of growth.

That means opening offices overseas, engaging in joint ventures, broadening

the scope of services and turning Royal Mail and Parcelforce into organisations with a global reach. Heron sums up their ambitions. "I would like people to think not that it is just quality, but that the Post Office shows enterprise and drive," he says. "I would also like to see it as a great British success abroad."

But suppose the Cabinet says no, or fails to get a Bill through the Commons? "We'll have to try to achieve the same things within the public sector," Cockburn says, "but it will be more difficult."

No quitting? Cockburn responds with a snort. For Heron, the Post Office is the ultimate professional challenge. For Cockburn, it remains a vocation.

A smart soccer chief changes his team when it is at the top, not when it faces relegation

Rough justice for Pearson

PEARSON'S shares have ridden so high since the group reinvented itself as a media and entertainment group last year that it was bound to disappoint its followers some time. The group may have forsaken its days as a rambling conglomerate but, as its latest result show, its separate divisions are continuing their time-honoured profit see-saw.

Even so, yesterday's 4 per cent fall in the shares seems rough justice for a group that has achieved a great deal in a short space of time. The group has reorganised itself with none of the dislocation or write-offs usually associated with the process, and picked up some attractive acquisitions.

In particular, last year's purchase of Thames has proved a master stroke. The group has raised £125 million by selling part of its stake in SES, the Astra satellite company. The disposal values the rest of the stake at £70 million. This, combined with the accrued profits from the past year, has almost paid the entire £99 million purchase price for a business that can make £20 million a year.

Admittedly, the sums look less tidy for Software Toolworks, which Pearson bought in April. This is making an

annualised return of barely 1 per cent on its £309 million purchase price, diluting earnings, and has hit Pearson's net assets with a £293 million goodwill write-off.

Overall, however, the success of Thames and BSkyB gives Pearson leeway as its books division suffers from slack demand and Lazard goes off the boil. The group's balance sheet is also still strong in spite of the recent run of acquisitions, and the sale of the Camco shares should reduce debts to less than £100 million by year-end. Pearson's shares are still trading on more than 20 times current year earnings forecasts, but yesterday's tremor of caution is more a reminder of the group's mortality rather than the beginnings of a slide. If it had offered a more generous dividend, perhaps the market might not have minded.

ED & F Man

ED & F Man is a curious beast, to be sure. Some arcane parallels have been conjured up and rejected for this food trader and processor with a large sideline in financial services. Rather than, for example, Tate & Lyle crossed with Exco, the group should be seen as sui generis, a fact that will not

help its flotation. Man will go, however unsuitably, into the food manufacturing sector, where it will rub shoulders with companies on historic earnings multiples that average 14.5. The inevitable discount before flotation will have to be increased to take account of the fact that compared to, say, Booker and Hillsdown, Man has rather fewer solid assets in the form of processing plant and factories. Instead, much of its assets are stocks of commodities piled up around the world as part of the trading operations.

However, unwilling the group may be to take significant positions in its various markets, the combination of commodities and financial services does not suggest to the City strong stability of earnings. This impression is strengthened by the 150 per cent leap in pre-tax profits from agricultural products in the last financial year, even if caused by a raft of one-off factors.

The trading statement in the pathfinder prospectus promises continued outperformance from the agricultural side, but running against this will be a downturn from fund management.

Man would probably like to see a historic p/e ahead of

12, buttressed by a dividend yield for this year of about 5 per cent, a 15 per cent premium to the market. To the group's strong credit is the decision of much of the existing equity to stay with the company. But the City, so far, sounds unconvinced.

Schroders

LIKE Kleinwort Benson, Schroders has proved it is made of sterner stuff than to wilt at the first taste of a turbulent market. The merchant bank has traditionally been less reliant on its trading operations than many of its competitors so was more than able to ride out the 45 per cent fall in dealing income. Schroders continues to score strongly in asset management and the fall in bond and equity markets in the first half was not enough to dent its fee income.

Nevertheless, Schroders is still being tight with its dividend. The interim payout may have risen 50 per cent to 6p, but the bank says that part of this is to rebalance it with the final. Cover is no less than nine times. If Schroders is so robust, it can afford to be more generous in a business that is hardly capital intensive.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

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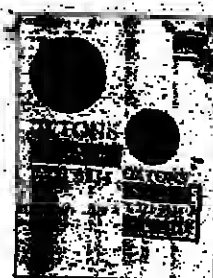
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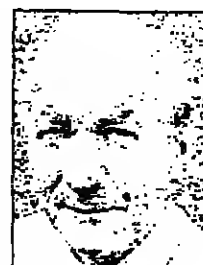
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Build up your own investment portfolio



Organised investor protest groups can get results — but think before you launch. Liz Dolan and Sara McConnell say

How to get in on the action

The Knight Williams Investors' Action Group this week celebrated what it considers a famous victory after the decision by Fimbra, the investment regulator, to fine Knight Williams a total of £73,400, including costs.

The financial adviser was found guilty of publishing misleading and inaccurate advertisements, and of being unable to disprove accusations that clients, most of whom were pensioners, had been incorrectly advised.

Few are in any doubt that the action group was responsible, at the very least, for speeding up the disciplinary process. The press and the Consumers' Association have criticised KW for years. But, since the group's launch earlier this year, Kenneth Jordan, the founder, has waged a relentless campaign to secure official recognition of the plight of his growing band of members, lobbying press and MPs, and even securing an invitation to submit written evidence on the investors' behalf to the Treasury Select Committee.

Mr Jordan can justifiably claim much of the responsibility for an all-party early day motion, in the Commons, in

July, which expressed concern about KW. His next goal is an independent inquiry.

Powerful financial organisations that had previously been able to bat off individual complainants like flies now face a growing number of organised groups of angry customers in the KWIAG mould. Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, Sun Alliance and the high street banks are among the household names currently besieged in this manner.

But, anyone tempted to launch an action group should look carefully before leaping into the fray. The more justified the cause, the greater the danger of being swamped immediately by calls from desperate — possibly suicidal — people. Group organisers will also be asked for financial advice that they are not qualified to give, and must be prepared to spend huge amounts of time and money dealing with complainants, lobbying, seeking publicity, and struggling with piles of basic, boring administration.

Battle-scarred veterans, some of whom supply further hints and warnings elsewhere on this page, caution that only the most energetic and emotionally stable should apply.



Paul Diggins's victory in the High Court against Sun Alliance appears to have given a new impetus to the investors' action group

KNIGHT WILLIAMS INVESTORS' ACTION GROUP

SEVEN weeks ago, Paul Diggins, a member of the Sun Alliance Action Group, won a significant victory against Sun Alliance in the High Court when he was cleared on appeal of claiming fraudulently on his insurances. George Bird, founder of the group, believes this gave it new impetus and credibility.

Mr Bird started the group two years ago, after his mother had undergone a ten-year battle with Sun Alliance. Since Mr Diggins's victory, he has been inundated. He has installed an

extra phone line and is planning to have the number included in telephone books of major cities. The cost of phone bills and postage is enormous. But Mr Bird has so far refused to charge the people who contact him. He sees his main role as "giving support".

■ Sun Alliance says: "The group clearly had a role to play in publicising Mr Diggins's case. But we have had no formal approach. It is not clear what value it can add over and above the insurance ombudsman."

Sun Alliance AG: 0242 222210

THE Knight Williams Investors' Action Group (KWIAG) has assumed responsibility for 250 complainants, and has advised hundreds of others.

Dylis and Kenneth Jordan, the organisers, say: "Gravitas is vital. Gimmicks or stunts are not a good idea. You need the stamina of an ox and endless patience. We were taking calls from 7.30 in the morning to 10.30 at night at one point. They expect you to be a cross between Marjorie Proops and a financial adviser, but you have to be circumspect. They might sue if you

give the wrong advice. A good filing system is essential. An answerphone is tricky as you're landed with phoning them back. Get them to pay for calls. We charge a nominal £4 fee, which doesn't even cover things like photocopying, postage and stationery, let alone the phone bill."

■ Knight Williams refused to discuss KWIAG and suggested talking to Fimbra or Sib. Fimbra nominated Sib. Sib referred us back to Fimbra. We gave up.

KWIAG: 0223 671108

C&G ALTERNATIVES

WHEN the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society announced that some customers would not, after all, get a share of the £1.8 billion Lloyds Bank was paying to take it over, all hell was let loose. Or so it seems to C&G Alternatives, the group set up to oppose passive acceptance of the takeover.

Paul Rivlin, one of the three founders says: "We are still struggling to cope with the amount of feedback we are getting." He estimates that the number of people contacting the group is "into four figures".

Most people have found out about the group through the press, often the only way groups can publicise their existence. But it is a mistake to assume that all of the press will be supportive and initial contact can be intimidating, Mr Rivlin says.

People are asked to give £5 towards costs of telephone and postage. They are discouraged from phoning. Mr Rivlin, a full-time employee, says that those with demanding jobs would find running a group hard work. The group's aim is to force a special meeting to discuss options apart from takeover. It thinks it played a part in getting the society to extend its helpline.

■ C&G says: Extending the helpline was nothing to do with C&G Alternatives. After the judgment there was confusion, so we decided to have a helpline. C&G Alternatives has had no impact on us. How can an action group of several hundred influence 1.4 million customers? They have a minute percentage of the C&G board's knowledge. C&G Alternatives: 7, Floral Street, London WC2E 9DH

Weekend Money is edited by Sara McConnell

STRUGGLE Against Financial Exploitation (SAFE) was set up in 1992 by Brian Jones and Chris Joseph, two businessmen locked in separate battles with Barclays Bank. It has between 1,500 and 2,000 members, described as people with "serious problems" concerning high street banks.

Mr Joseph says: "We don't act for them; we help them to help themselves. We put them in touch with good lawyers, who believe in what we're doing and won't tip them off. We teach them the best way to get the press interested. Most people are just glad to have someone who will listen, but we have had calls from people threatening to kill themselves. We've had to talk them down."

Mr Joseph has no problem with the demands on his time. "You do tend to find yourself doing things like reading the Banking Act on a Saturday



SAFE believes in using attention-grabbing gimmicks

night rather than going down the pub, but I don't mind. It gets more and more interesting. We've met so many people." Each member pays £45. "But it doesn't cover much. We need more money to get information, to find things out." He sees nothing wrong with attention-grabbing gimmicks. "We operate on every level from stunts to serious research."

■ Barclays says: "Unlike KWIAG, SAFE has no specific

grievance that can form the basis for a dialogue. They're not saying we've broken any laws, just given bad service. They have a few members, we have millions of account-holders." NatWest says: "We recognise that customers may feel the need for a body to whom they can talk. If they ask the action group for help, it is their right and we will deal with the group on that basis."

SAFE: 071-636 6601

SPICE

PEARSE Kelly learnt a lot about how to complain when he was sold the wrong insurance policy by an MGM Assurance salesman. Reluctant to let his knowledge go to waste, he started the Society for Policyholders Issuing Complaints Effectively (Spice) in 1992. He will now help people with complaints about insurance and will write letters and most companies on the policyholders' behalf. He charges a £25 administration fee and asks people to donate 15 per cent of any money recovered.

He now has 140 members through referrals, small ads and press coverage. He reckons he has spent £5,000 of his own money on what has become a full-time activity.

He says: "I have to tell people I can't give them financial advice."

Spice: 08687 67629.

Another deafening silence

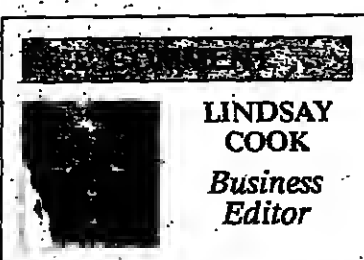
So a regulator has finally barked in the case of Knight Williams. The purveyor of financial advice to the retired was fined £50,000 this week plus costs by Fimbra. It did not try to deny the ten charges of rule-breaking.

The Securities and Investments Board also took the opportunity to make it clear that the many complaints of Knight Williams's clients should be addressed promptly and properly. Even those cases dismissed in the past should be reopened if the client is not happy. It is a victory for the Knight Williams Action Group and for the concerns expressed by journalists over a number of years.

I first encountered the investment group six years ago, and have not felt comfortable with some of its activities since. When the libel laws have permitted, that discomfort has been expressed in this column. It has not been eased by the silence from Fimbra and Sib.

Then early last summer the arbitrator for Fimbra inadvertently revealed that KW was subject to more than 100 complaints from investors. At the time, the company dismissed it as a tiny proportion of its 24,000 clients. More complaints were lodged with Fimbra, Sib, MPs, ministers and newspapers over the following year, but the regulators kept their silence. This week Fimbra said the offences for which Knight Williams was fined occurred after the year of the 100 complaints. At least the complaints seem to have stirred the regulator into some sort of action.

KW quietly paid compensation in a number of cases, including those victims



LINDSAY COOK
Business Editor

of one of its salesmen who has subsequently been banned for life from selling investments.

The company now faces the hurdle of being accepted by the new regulator, the Personal Investment Authority. The large number of complaints must prove an obstacle to membership, as must the current admission of wrongdoing, if the avowed intention to protect investors is to be achieved.

Any company that sets out to sell investment to the retired and those just about to leave work behind needs to be beyond reproach.

Fimbra is following in the footsteps of Fimbra by maintaining a dignified silence. We must hope that it will be short-lived and that we will soon be told whether standards at Knight Williams are now much improved or whether Knight Williams is beyond redemption, and therefore unacceptable to the PIA. Fimbra is as much on trial as Knight Williams. It will have to convince us and its investors that it has made the correct decision.

Whatever happens, investors should not lose out. If you have money invested

with Knight Williams but no specific complaint, there is no need to panic.

Poor salesmen

Meanwhile, General Accident has hit back at a survey by the Consumers' Association which suggests that salesmen are commission-hungry. Not so, the company says, and gives examples of the meagre returns a broker gets for selling its products.

How they can survive must worry some customers. Maybe we ought to take up a collection for the walls and strays of the industry. Take, for example, the seller of a flexible whole-of-life policy payable on first death, with premiums of £56 a month: the salesman must muddle along on £536.95 for his or her trouble. Or maybe he or she might suggest a joint term assurance with renewal and conversion options — a mere £45 a month — then the commission comes in at £605.99. A bargain.

There are obviously a large proportion of salesmen who do the best for their clients and want a long-term relationship with them. Unfortunately, their reputations are besmirched by the hit-and-run salesmen interested in their next cheque above all.

In a few months' time, all salesmen will have to reveal such figures. Maybe that is why General Accident Life has moved onto the attack. Could it be that the company is trying to convince itself of the good value of paying hundreds of pounds in commission? Some might feel that it protests just a little too much.

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Plan for a ripe old age

The need for careful financial planning does not end when you start to draw your pension. You could live a further 30 years or more after you retire and you should still take advice before making any move to increase your income.

Elderly people are sometimes seen as easy prey by unscrupulous salesmen, as victims of the home-income plan scandal, in the late 1980s, found. Then, some elderly people were persuaded to mortgage their homes and put the resulting lump sum in an investment bond linked to the stock market. The bonds lost value as the stock market fell, and people were left with a mortgage debt.

The cost of many daily outgoings will fall during retirement, but, in many cases, so too will a retired couple's income. You should draw up a

new budget, with help from an independent financial adviser, if necessary, which includes state pension and other benefits as well as returns from investments to show how much income you will have coming in.

You are more likely to become ill or disabled after you retire, and you should plan to meet the cost of these, just in case. Charles Levett-Scrivener, a director of Towry Law, the independent retirement specialist, says: "One use for part of a pension's cash lump sum is to buy a single premium, long-term care poli-

cy which will meet things like nursing home fees if these have not already been planned for." You get higher personal tax allowances when you are over 65, although concerns over inheritance tax (IHT) may well occupy many minds, even though term assurance or whole-of-life policies can be used to offset possible IHT on gifts and estates.

Because people often live for so long after retirement, savings and investments need to be looked after and capital preserved, not simply placed in high-income producing or low-risk investments.

Inheritance tax

We incorrectly stated on August 27 that the recipient of a gift is liable for inheritance tax if the donor dies within seven years of making it. In fact, the donor's estate is liable. We apologise for the error.



John and Dorothea Symonds find that careful financial planning, with the help of a broker, is now bearing fruit

John and Dorothea Symonds enjoy the kind of lifestyle most people imagine in retirement. After 30 years in the hotel and restaurant trade on the South Coast, they finished paying for their home, built for them 12 years ago, then retired to Weymouth with a large portfolio of investments that now produces most of their income. In the nine years since retiring, they have managed their money carefully, on the advice of Christows, a West Country stockbroker, and have been able to afford regular trips overseas. They have also been able to afford to buy a new car every three years. Their portfolio is split be-

tween shares, gilts, unit trusts and insurance bonds, with a very small exposure to Japanese warrants to add some spice.

Income from the portfolio is paid straight into an account at the Birmingham Midshires Building Society, every quarter, by Christows. The couple have a small pension to add to their income. Christows handles all the Symonds' tax affairs as well as giving them general financial advice.

Mrs Symonds says: "The stockbrokers take all the hassle out of everything. It's a very personal service. We wouldn't be able to live the life we do without them managing our investments for us."

YOU should check how much you would receive from your husband or wife's company pension if he or she dies before you do. The payout is not always very big and you should organise your investments when you first retire so that you will have large enough income if your spouse dies.

Charles Levett-Scrivener, of Towry Law, says: "Some retired people think they should simply be using building society accounts or gilts for their savings and investments. The problem is a person retiring today may well be still alive in 25 years' time. Using just

deposit accounts and short-dates gilts is not doing the best for yourself. You need a balanced portfolio."

Many people will use their investments to boost income from a pension. You need to balance high-yielding assets for income and investments to preserve capital.

Non-taxpayers should consider National Savings products, such as the Pensioner's Guaranteed Income Bond and fixed-interest or indexed-linked certificates. They should also register to have building society or bank interest paid gross.

Schroders. Who better in Japan?

As an experienced investor, you are probably aware that the Japanese stockmarket has only recently begun to rise. In fact, the Nikkei 225 is currently trading at just over half the level of its all time high in 1989*.

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Who should you trust? Who better than Schroders?

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*Nikkei 225 Stock Average Index 20,511.6 at 23/06/94. All time high 38,915.87 at 29/12/89. **Microcap offer to bid with net income reinvested to 22/08/94. Tokyo Fund from 02/08/81, 1/11 and from 01/08/89, 9/66 Japanese Smaller Companies Fund from 01/08/84, 1/06, 1/54 and 1/53 respectively.

YOU get a higher personal allowance of £4,200, compared with £4,445, when you are over 65, so more of your income is tax free. The over 65s married couple's allowance is an extra £2,665. These allowances are increased for people over 75. However, if the gross

income exceeds £14,200, the higher allowances are reduced. Everyone can leave £150,000 before inheritance tax (IHT) bites at 40 per cent. Transfers between spouses are free of the tax.

IHT can be avoided by giving away assets, provided the donor lives seven years, although capital gains tax (CGT) may be payable on such gifts. Maximise personal allowances, such as the £5,800 CGT allowance, by holding investments in a spouse's name.

IF YOUR main asset is your home, you may be keen to unlock some of your equity using a home income plan. But tread carefully. Two comparatively safe types of plan are on offer. The first involves taking out a mortgage on your house and buying an annuity with the proceeds. The annuity provides a guaranteed income for life and, at present, the mortgage can attract tax relief up to £30,000. The annuity payments are treated partly as non-taxable capital and partly as income. However, inflation can erode the value of the income and some state benefits may be affected.

An alternative is a home reversion scheme. This involves selling your house to a company at less than its market value, in return for a lump sum to buy an annuity and the guarantee of both spouses being able to remain in the home, as tenants, until they die. Home income plans are only for retired people needing an income. Graham Hooper, of Chase de Vere, says: "Generally they are a tool of the last resort."

A simpler way of releasing the value built up in your home is to sell the property, buy a smaller, cheaper house and invest the difference.

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Schroders

Schroder Investment Management

Home in on loans

**Karen Murray
and Sara
McConnell**
look at the
cheapest ways to
buy your home

If you are planning to buy a house this autumn, you will have to spend less of your monthly income on mortgage repayments than at any time in the past 15 years, lenders said this week.

Low interest rates coupled with large discounts from lenders desperately trying to tempt you to buy mean you will have to spend only 13 per cent of your income, on average, on servicing your loan in the early years.

You will also have to pay less for your home in the first place. According to the Halifax and the Nationwide, prices hardly rose at all last month, and show little sign of a dramatic rise before the end of the year.

However, before you can get a loan you are likely to have to find a large deposit of 10 per cent or more, the Council of Mortgage Lenders says.

The 100 per cent mortgage, too freely offered in the boom years of the late 1980s, is now rare, and your lender will want some sign of your commitment. If you have a deposit of less than 25 per cent, you will almost certainly also have to pay a hefty premium for mortgage indemnity insurance, taken out to protect the lender if it has to repossess your home.

You will also find that fixed rates, which were so cheap at the start of the year, are now more expensive in many cases than variable rates, particularly over longer terms.

The most attractive fixed rates are deepshort-term ones, for two to three years, which vary between 8.99 per cent and 8.90 per cent, whereas five-year rates are more expensive



Lenders hope the housing market will bloom

can put down as a deposit, the bigger the discount. But to qualify, you may have to take buildings and contents insurance from the lender. The other problem with discounts is that if interest rates go up, as many expect them to, then the discounted rate rises too.

Earlier this year, many lenders gave borrowers the option of taking a discount as "cashback", in a lump sum, rather than spreading it over the first few years. Others, such as the Halifax, offered only the lump sum, without the option of taking the money in the form of a discount. Borrowers with large deposits opting for cashback could get a cashback payout of several thousand pounds.

But now several lenders have cut their cashbacks to hundreds of pounds after the Inland Revenue warned borrowers that they could face a capital gains tax bill. Some borrowers claiming cashback could exceed the £5,000 capital gains tax ceiling.

The Halifax cut its cashback to a maximum of £500 from a maximum of £6,000. Instead of just offering a large cashback, borrowers now have a combination of cashback and discounts. For borrowers needing loans of 90 per cent to 95 per cent of the property's value, the Halifax's current discounted rate is 3.89 per cent for one year and 6.34 per cent for three years.

However, the option of taking several thousand pounds in a lump sum still exists. If you take out a Fidelity Pep linked to a mortgage from the Bank of Ireland, you can take either a 5 per cent discount off the standard rate of 7.6 per cent for one year, or cashback of up to £7,350.

Abbey National is offering discounts of between 1.45 per cent and 4.25 per cent over one, two or three years. If you have a deposit of 5 per cent minimum, you can choose between a rate of 3.85 per cent for a year, 5.69 per cent for two years or 6.29 per cent for three years. These rates fall to 3.59 per cent, 5.55 per cent and 6.19 per cent respectively if you have more than 10 per cent to put down as a deposit. On a £55,000 repayment mortgage, over 25 years, monthly payments on the one-year discount mortgage would be £122. However, it may be too much of a shock for some to pay £316 a month after the first year. Alternatively, you can look for a lower rate for two, three, four or ten years for between 8.75 per cent and 9.99 per cent. You do not

have to take out buildings insurance. Alliance & Leicester Building Society has a discount of 1.6 per cent for three years off its current variable rate of 7.64 per cent. On top of this, there is cashback of £400.

The Woolwich recently increased its discounts by another 0.25 per cent on average and is offering new borrowers with a 20 per cent deposit a rate of 3.25 per cent and first-time buyers a discounted rate of 3 per cent for the first year, a discount of 4.75 per cent on its variable rate of 7.75 per cent. The cashback is £400 plus a refund on the valuation fee.

Barclays Bank's new cashback is £250, plus a free valuation and no booking or arrangement fees. If you

take its own buildings and/or contents insurance, it charges 3.99 per cent for the first year.

The Chelsea Building Society has a 5 per cent discount for the first year, cutting the cost of the loan to 2.64 per cent for borrowers with a 20 per cent deposit. For those with a deposit of between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of the price, the discount is 4.5 per cent. Alternatively, there is a discount of 2.3 per cent for the first two years for borrowers with between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of the price to put down. This cuts the rate to 5.34 per cent.

To get the best of both worlds, some lenders, such as the Portman and the Halifax, can arrange a mix of a fixed and a variable-rate mortgage.

BRIEFINGS

The Leeds Permanent Building Society has set up an obsolete accounts information line. Savers with accounts at the top 40 banks and building societies can phone to find out if their account has been closed to new business and is therefore paying a lower rate. In some cases, the Leeds will be able to give an answer immediately. In others, it will make inquiries and call back. The number of the information line is 0345 789 789. It is open until September 17 from 8am to 8pm. Calls will be charged at the local rate.

Prolific Asset Management, best known for unit trusts, is to launch its first investment trust, Prolific Income, on September 22. Its stated aim is to provide a "reliable and strongly rising income", together with capital growth over the longer term. Managers of the underlying portfolio will not be active traders, says Mike Webb, the marketing director. "We're definitely long-term investors." The shares, which are "Pepable" from launch, are £1 and the minimum subscription is £2,000. The offer closes on October 13.

In the light of possible changes in government policy to allow hospitals to discharge elderly patients for whom nothing can be done medically, PPP Lifetime has launched a long-term care insurance policy, the rates and benefits of which are guaranteed for ten years. Single premium plans are available to anyone under 84. Optional five-year life cover will repay capital on early death. Regular premiums may be reduced in cases of hardship.

Leeds & Holbeck Building Society has a three-year fixed-rate bond that allows investors to choose whether to take interest monthly, annually or on maturity. Net rates on the three options are: 6 per cent, 6.19 per cent and 20.25 per cent, respectively. The minimum investment is £5,000.

The Skipton Building Society's new three-year fixed-rate bond pays 6.19 per cent after tax. The minimum investment is £2,000. Withdrawals are not allowed during the three years and are subject to a 4 per cent penalty after that.

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3 GOOD REASONS FOR NOT LEAVING YOUR MONEY IN THE BUILDING SOCIETY

If you've got £5,000 or more to invest for a fixed period of 5½ years you should read on. Because the latest issue of Save & Prosper's Guaranteed Stockmarket Bond offers you the capital security of a building society account plus the potential of stockmarket growth. There's even an option that lets you lock in your profits. Too good to be true? Here's how it works.

1. Capital Security

At the end of its fixed period Guaranteed Stockmarket Bond guarantees that you will get all of your original investment back, even if the stockmarket does not show a rise.

2. Guaranteed Minimum Growth

In fact the Bond even guarantees a minimum 15% growth on your original investment. That's the equivalent of "interest" of 2.7% compound net per annum, a comparable rate of interest to current rates from building society accounts. So you can't lose. And what's more, all of your returns are net of basic rate tax.

3. 135% of any Stockmarket Growth

Guaranteed Stockmarket Bond will give you 135% of any stockmarket growth* on 95% of your investment.

For example, if Guaranteed Stockmarket Bond had been available 5½ years ago and you had invested £10,000 the Bond would have been

worth £15,694 on 1st August 1994, compared to £13,746 in a Building Society. (Source: Micropal BS 2500+ index)

Act Now

The offer is on a "first come, first served" basis and must close at the latest on 30th September 1994. Find out why you shouldn't leave your money in the building society by talking to your financial adviser, ringing our free Moneyline or filling in the coupon.

*Growth in the FTSE 100 up to a maximum of 90%, and without income reinvested.

CALL FREE 0800 282 101

9.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. 7 DAYS A WEEK

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Surname

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Mr/Ms/Miss

Address

Postcode

Home Tel (STD)

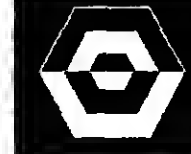
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So that we may call and offer further information.

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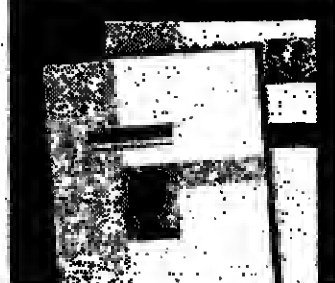
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Financial Planning for the Professional

Address

Postcode

Independent Financial Adviser (if any)

Telephone (home) (work)

Clerical Medical

67/01

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Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
Bank of Scotland	2.50	12 months	1.000 7 day
Bank of Ireland	2.50	12 months	1.000 7 day
Bank of Wales	2.50	12 months	1.000 7 day
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I love these bank errors...
I've just been given two more
blackmail targets



Close window on bank affairs
From N. M. Cree
Sir, I, too, have received bank statements of other customers folded in with my own (Weekend Money Letters, August 27). One was particularly revealing about a high-ranking officer and his wife's private affairs. When I suggested to the bank manager that mistakes would be avoided if each customer had an individually

addressed envelope instead of an envelope with a "window", the reply was: "We can't afford it".
The banks — with their millions of profit — Yours faithfully,
N. M. Cree
3 Bridge View,
Blandford St Mary,
Blandford Forum,
Dorset.

Cheques should reduce cash in hand
From Ms Beryl Dixon
Sir, I have never liked the Credit Agricole Bank. On previous visits to France I have always felt that either its exchange rate or its commission charges compared unfavourably with other banks.
Then I set off for France again, armed with my book of cheques, thinking, "not even the Credit Agricole can do me this time. I shall be writing cheques directly in France."

Not a bit of it! The branch — the only bank in a small village — saw fit to insist that I changed a minimum of £1,400, approximately £175. With no option on a Friday afternoon, I had to do so. Admittedly, the instructions in my eurocheque book do

warn that some French banks may insist on customers changing the maximum amount allowed, ie £1,400, so the dear old CA is within its rights.
However, had I wished to carry such a sum on my person (I settle major bills by credit card) I could have taken the cash with me from England.
The whole point, surely, of being able to visit a bank is that one may change smaller amounts as and when needed.
I feel sure that many other readers would appreciate being advised of the Credit Agricole's policy.
Yours sincerely,
BERYL DIXON,
5 Alswitha Terrace,
King Alfred Place,
Winchester.

Will summer come with C&G bonus?
From Mr S. E. Dvorjets
Sir, With regard to the letters referring to the proposed purchase of Cheltenham & Gloucester by Lloyds, one can well understand the feeling of disappointment by those that have a mortgage and are no longer to receive anything.
However, can any of them say that the only reason they took out a mortgage with the C&G was in the knowledge that this deal would arise? (Talk about insider dealing).
I write as a saver with C&G for a number of years and must now stay alive until next summer. I wonder which day summer will occur in 1995!
Yours faithfully,
S. E. DVORJETS,
20 St Peter's Close,
Manney,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands.

Restore justice to pensions
From Mr Michael Gaisford
Sir, I was interested to read in Lindsay Cook's comment (August 27) that "it is quite remarkable how some companies seem to run their pension schemes as if it were their own money and nothing to do with their employees".
Remarkable, perhaps, but hardly surprising, given that in most cases the trustees and the employer are, to all intents and purposes, one and the same... and challenging the trustees' discretion is extremely difficult.
Four things are necessary to restore justice to occupational pensions:
1. The domination of trustee boards by the employer must be ended.
2. The first call on fund assets must be for the maintenance of the real value of pensions. No contribution holidays or repayments to the employer should be permitted until pensions have been fully indexed and compensation paid for any past under-indexation.
3. The Inland Revenue rules should be modified.
4. There should be pensions tribunals, similar to employment tribunals.
To all these proposals, the present Government has turned a deaf ear, and, indeed, seems far more concerned with protecting the employers rather than the pensioners. Let us hope the next government will be more sympathetic.
Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GAISFORD,
Amberley,
Southorn Lane,
Sudbrooke,
Lincoln.

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A straightforward and economical way of exchanging shares for Portfolio units.

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64 London Wall, London EC2M 5TP
Telephone 071-638 0800 Fax 071-638 0050
Please send me full details as marked above.
Name: _____
Address: _____

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So that we may call and offer further information.

THE INITIAL CHARGE IS 2% AND THE ANNUAL CHARGE 1.5%. PART OR ALL OF THE ANNUAL CHARGE WILL BE CHARGED TO CAPITAL. ALTHOUGH THIS WILL ENHANCE THE INCOME DISTRIBUTED, IT MAY REDUCE CAPITAL PERFORMANCE. THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS, AND ANY INCOME FROM THEM, CAN FALL AS WELL AS RISE AND YOU MAY NOT GET BACK THE FULL AMOUNT YOU INVESTED. TAX CONCESSIONS CAN CHANGE AND THEIR VALUE WILL DEPEND ON YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES. SAVE & PROSPER GROUP LTD IS A MEMBER OF IMRO AND AUTIF.

SAVE & PROSPER
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The right investment company

The right fund

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Recent setbacks on world markets have depressed European share prices, making this an ideal buying opportunity.

Henderson Touche Remnant's credentials in this area are excellent — we are already responsible for continental European investments worth over £1 billion. We believe that this is the right time to invest and we have the right fund. HTR European Special Situations has a highly successful track record, well within the top 10% of all European unit trusts since its launch in February 1987.

HTR
HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT
The Investment Managers

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PERFORMANCE OVER
6 months
1 YEAR
3 YEARS
AND SINCE LAUNCH

HTR European Special Situations Fund has a very impressive long term performance record. (Source: Mitrail, offer to bid with net income reinvested, to 1.7.94)

Further Information

For full details of HTR European Special Situations Fund:

- ★ Speak to your usual financial adviser
- ★ Return the coupon, or
- ★ Call us free of charge on the number below.

CALL FREE 0800 106 106

Quoting the reference "EUROPEP 40"

To: HTR Investor Services Department, FREEPOST, PO Box 216, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1DD.
Please send me details of the HTR European Special Situations FUND PEP.
Title _____ Initial(s) _____ Surname _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
My usual financial adviser is: _____
Issued by Henderson Financial Management Limited, 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA.
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Telephone Day: _____ Evening: _____
Address: _____
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To: Sun Life Consultant Services Dept.
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THE TIMES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3 1994

[illegible]

Equities lose early impetus

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
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DRAPERY STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
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FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
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HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
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INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
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100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
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PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
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LEISURE

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
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100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
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100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
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100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
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100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0

NEWS, PUBLISHERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
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TOBACCO

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
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TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
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100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
100	99	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	HSBC Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	London City	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00	4.50	10.0
100	99	Paragon Bank	100.00		

Amokachi crosses one of sport's final frontiers

His young, gifted and black when Daniel Amokachi, the 21-year-old Nigerian who wears a diamond in his left ear and possesses a physique of compact muscle, was accepted into the fold of Everton on Tuesday night, it was the most symbolic happening of this sporting summer.

At last, every football club in the FA Cup Premiership features a black player; at last, the stigma that has attached to Everton for 20 apparently bigoted years has been lifted.

Amokachi has some playing to do to five up to his World Cup performances and his £3 million price tag, but when 26,689 Evertonians — all but one skinhead who had to be manhandled off the turf —

stood in applause, Alex Innes, 59, an Evertonian almost from the cradle, turned to his mate and said: "I'm delighted. I've been fed up with these coloured players coming here with every other team, running rings around our players. He's the one."

According to Innes, whose son, Graham, edits the fanzine "When Skies are Grey", Amokachi was conducting his own audience: "He was doing us up and down, making us applaud him, then quietening us down again. If he runs the show like that in the blue shirt, everyone's going to forget all the nastiness they've accused Everton of for years."

Indeed, Amokachi, so full of youthful confidence and self-belief, reckons he can run 100

metres in 10.1sec. In Belgium, where he had played since he was a 17-year-old, observers agree that he is fast, almost impossible to shove off the ball and has a shot of such power that it will lift those Evertonians off their seats many times over.

So the FC Bruges fans are faithful to the player they signed on the brink of manhood from Rangers Bees and made him one of 56 African imports to their league.

It is scarcely a couple of years since Abedi Pele, arguably the finest African player of his generation, lamented: "We grew up in Ghana on English football. My dream was to play there, but nobody in England showed any interest in Africans. It was crazy,



ROB HUGHES
Weekend View

from Ghana and Nigeria we spoke English, but we had to learn French, Belgian, Spanish, German or Italian to go abroad."

Meanwhile, Goodison Park became justifiably or not, known as the cesspit of grounds for the burgeoning numbers of black players being integrated into English clubs. "Nigger-pool," they yelled while throwing bananas at John Barnes, the first black player purchased by

their neighbours, Liverpool. The progress by-passed Everton. In 1977, one could see 25 black faces amongst the professional clubs in England. By 1989, it had risen to 145. Today, it is 254, a ratio more than double the 5.5 per cent ethnic minority among the national population.

The work permit for Amokachi comes through in time, he may be the one black player on the field against

Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park next Saturday. So the myth is broken.

What myth is that? The one propagated by 12 first division managers out of 14 I canvassed in 1975 who said they would not sign a black player because "they lacked bottle, no stamina". At that time, Lord Westwood, the president of the league, admitted he had once asked a former manager of his to sign a black player. "No coloured players will play for Newcastle United," came the reply.

Westwood interjected: "What if we were offered Eusio or Pele?" The response was the same.

The damage such stupid, if not out-and-out racially preju-

diced men had done to their own game is obvious. One need not believe the equally-dubious myths that black players flowed more comfortably or were blessed with some kind of harmony and technique to abhor the racism that denied growing and willing members of the population to join in the game.

Welcome, Everton. Now, provided Amokachi can display any kind of consistency, the city of Liverpool will become perfectly acceptable for a visit from President Nelson Mandela. It is on the cards, for, during the red half of Liverpool's football tour to Johannesburg this summer, the most successful champion against racial discrimination in history requested from

Liverpool one of their famous red shirts.

In last Sunday's first programme of the new season at Anfield, there was a photograph of Mandela bursting with pride and joy, clad in the red shirt and surrounded by Neil Ruddock, Sammy Lee, Roy Evans and of course Barnes.

Hero worship knows no barrier. Even the great fighters of history, politicians, businessmen and soldiers harbour a boyhood dream of running down the wing to create or score that winning goal.

President Mandela was invited to Anfield and to become a freeman of the city. Maybe it is sport, rather than politics, that creates the art of the possible.

Liverpool add £3.2m Scales to defensive collection

By PETER BALL

GOING on holiday is proving an expensive business for David Moores, the Liverpool chairman. In his absence, the club took its expenditure to nearly £7 million in 24 hours when they signed John Scales, from Wimbledon, for £3.2 million.

Scales, like Phil Babb, the Ireland international signed on Thursday, is a centre half. With Neil Ruddock called into the England squad on Thursday, that suggests either that the George Graham syndrome (an irresistible urge to buy central defenders) is infecting Anfield or — more likely — that Liverpool are contemplating playing with three centre defenders in a new formation.

Roy Evans refused to confirm that yesterday, but the implication was clear: "It is a possibility," he said, "but we wouldn't have ended up with three centre halves if we didn't want three."

Liverpool have wanted Scales for some time. "He is someone we've chased for, for over 12 months," Evans said. They finally got Wimbledon's agreement six weeks ago, but Wimbledon delayed the signing while they searched for a replacement, so far without success.

A tall, solid defender, Scales, 28, has attracted considerable interest in recent years. He spent seven years with Wimbledon, who signed him from Bristol Rovers after he had been released by Leeds, and, along with Babb and Ruddock, he will give a solid spine to the club.

The chairman made a magnificent gesture putting in £10 million in the summer. I've spent some of it, but we shall still be on the lookout for players," Evans said. "I've got two major assets for the club

and this goes to show that we are still in the market with anybody in the Premier League."

Everton, too, are eager to get back into the market place, with Ceri Hughes, of Luton Town, interesting them. Yesterday's activity, however, did not involve any money changing hands as Everton agreed to exchange Tony Cottee, the striker, for the West Ham United full back, David Burrows. Cottee, 29, joined Everton from West Ham six years ago, but is said to be keen to return to London. Burrows, similarly, hankers after a return to Merseyside, where he played for Liverpool before moving to West Ham last September.

Walsall yesterday dismissed their manager, Kenny Hibbitt, the former Wolverhampton Wanderers midfielder who took charge of the club in May 1990. Walsall have won just one of their first four matches in the Endleigh Insurance League first division and lost 2-1 at home to Carlisle on Tuesday night.

Another third division club, Wigan Athletic, also dismissed their manager yesterday. Kenny Swain leaving 18 months after he was appointed. Wigan are second from bottom and without a point from their first four League games — their only win in six this season was against Crewe in the Coca-Cola Cup — and the attendance of 1,231 against Chesterfield in midweek was the lowest crowd since Wigan entered the Football League in 1982.

"Wolverhampton yesterday signed Paul Stewart on a month's loan from Liverpool and he is expected to play against Sunderland at Roker Park today.



Venison, left, and Barnes take a break from England training at Bisham Abbey yesterday

Venerables bask in Venables' eye

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

A BEAUTIFUL day at Bisham Abbey in Buckinghamshire. Golfers strode to and from the 300-member nine-hole golf club, boats drifted by on the Thames and the tennis players served and volleyed. An ordinary scene of summer; sun, sport and serenity.

Yesterday, though, was no ordinary day for the England football team. First day of their international season, first day of training, first look for Terry Venables, the coach, at those he will entrust with the task of capturing the European championship in two years' time. He had watched them already —

"We've had every game covered this season: we've been as professional as we can," — but not in a controlled environment, where he and his assistants, Don Howe and Bryan Robson, can debate and direct in open forum. Club displays provide only half the answers, not the evidence of the nuts and bolts required to create an integrated and harmonious national squad.

With the memories of matches against Denmark, Greece and Norway, at the end of last season, having dimmed, Venables must peer towards the horizon. The United States visit Wembley on Wednesday, with Romania arriving on October 12 —

chances to test the credibility of his latest theories. Injuries, as usual, had not helped. Ince and Bould were out; Venison, Ruddock and Wise were in. Leaux, Lee and Pallister would be treated. No problems, and Platt will arrive from Italy later. "I feel we have an exciting squad and the quality of the competition within it is tremendous," Venables said. "I hope to see some sort of shape by the end of the year."

The resurrection of John Barnes from the England scrapheap has caused much surprise, though not to the Liverpool midfielder player. "I was hoping to get back, though maybe not this early,"

he said. "With my fitness now greater, I think I'm able to apply my ability much better." He attributed his rude health to daily running during the close-season and the avoidance of Kentucky takeaways.

Barry Venison, also 30, was so startled by his late call-up, after 13 seasons in the international backwaters, that he barely believed it. "I was at a fun day at Galeshead Stadium when this little lad came up and told me," the Newcastle United defender said. Resisting the temptation of handing out a swift kick round the ear, he finally believed his young informer and hot-footed it to Mallow. Such are the tales of the river bank.

Closer links give women higher profile

Allyson Rudd sees reasons for optimism as a new football season gets under way

Wolverhampton Wanderers Ladies are where Wolverhampton Wanderers' men want to be — in the Premier League — but while Graham Taylor is swamped by a huge squad of players, the women's team face the start of their season on Sunday with barely enough to field a complete side.

"We've virtually only got 12 or 13, which is not very good for the top division," Eileen Burrell, club secretary for the women's team, said. "We did have 15 or 16, but a couple have gone to university and another went to London."

It can only be a matter of time, however, before female players are flocking to Wolverhampton. The Old Gold Ladies have, of all the women's teams in this country, the most progressive relationship with their male counterparts. Jonathan Hayward, the chairman of Wolverhampton, is "totally supportive" according to Burrell and the club pays the women's travel expenses and provides their kit.

Women's teams are gradually forging closer links with FA Cup Premiership sides. Endleigh Insurance League and non-league sides. Knowsley Ladies, last season's women's FA Cup finalists, have changed their name to Liverpool FC Ladies. The association ends there, however.

Vic Akers, the manager of Arsenal Ladies, argues that adopting a Premiership or league club name should not be underestimated. Two years ago, Arsenal Ladies met Knowsley in the League Cup final. Akers believes that if the tie had been billed as Arsenal v Liverpool, there would have been more interest in it.

Akers is keen to raise the

profile of the women's game and has asked Sky Sports to advertise fixtures and broadcast results. Sky have already proved amenable, screening the women's FA Cup final, won by Doncaster Belles, in April.

The fact that only one in four leading women's games are considered competitive is a problem if the women's game is going to get more television exposure. Scorelines of 11-0 are not uncommon; a fact of which newly-promoted teams such as Brentford are well aware. Brentford are in the southern division of the national league and, as well as preparing his squad for tougher opposition, Nick Crowther, the Brentford manager, had to find a new ground (because national league teams have to play on an enclosed pitch), a search that eventually ended at Hanwell Town FC and a rent of under £1,000 a year.

St Helens, in the northern division, were luckier and will use Garswood United FC for £90 a season. They have swiftly changed their name to St Helens Garswood.

This season, the teams most likely to be inflicting 11-0 defeats are Doncaster, Arsenal, Liverpool and Millwall. Doncaster have dominated the women's game for over a decade but this summer three of their key players signed for Liverpool. All three live on Merseyside, but travelled across the Pennines every week to play top-level football.

On their way, they might have passed Clare Taylor driving into Liverpool from her home in Huddersfield: "It's not too bad, except when it's blowing a gale on the M62," she said. The Joey Beauchamp story must have been lost on all of them.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated.
Pools numbers in brackets.
* denotes a fixture.

Endleigh Insurance League

First division
(1) Bolton v Stoke
(2) Burnley v Barnsley
(3) Charlton v Bristol City
(4) Derby v Gillingham
(5) Exeter v Yeovil
(6) Port Vale v Luton
(7) Reading v Millwall
(8) Southend v Oxford
(9) Sunderland v Wolverhampton
(10) Tranmere v Shrewsbury
(11) Watford v Middlesbrough

Midweek	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackpool	4	0	0	0	0	12	0
Blackburn	4	0	0	0	0	9	0
Blackpool	4	0	0	0	0	7	0
Blackburn	4	0	0	0	0	7	0
Blackburn	4	0	0	0	0	7	0
Blackburn	4	0	0	0	0	7	0
Blackburn	4	0	0	0	0	7	0
Blackburn	4	0	0	0	0	7	0
Blackburn	4	0	0	0	0	7	0
Blackburn	4	0	0	0	0	7	0

Second division
(1) Birmingham v Plymouth
(2) Burnley v Wycombe
(3) Bradford v Wrexham
(4) Brentford v Walsall
(5) Brighton v Leyton Orient
(6) Bristol Rovers v Stockport
(7) Cambridge Utd v Rotherham
(8) Cardiff v Swansea (11.0)
(9) Crewe v Blackpool
(10) Huddersfield v Oxford Utd
(11) Hull v Chester
(12) Shrewsbury v Peterborough

Midweek	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crewe	4	0	0	0	0	12	0
Crewe	4	0	0	0	0	12	0
Crewe	4	0	0	0	0	12	0
Crewe	4	0	0	0	0	12	0
Crewe	4	0	0	0	0	12	0
Crewe	4	0	0	0	0	12	0
Crewe	4	0	0	0	0	12	0
Crewe	4	0	0	0	0	12	0
Crewe	4	0	0	0	0	12	0

Luton Orient	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barnsley	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Barnsley	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Barnsley	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Barnsley	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Barnsley	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Barnsley	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Barnsley	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Barnsley	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Barnsley	4	1	1	2	4	8	4

Third division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Doncaster v Darlington	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster v Darlington	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster v Darlington	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster v Darlington	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster v Darlington	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster v Darlington	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster v Darlington	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster v Darlington	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster v Darlington	4	1	1	2	4	8	4

Midweek	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Doncaster	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Doncaster	4	1	1	2	4	8	4

Scottish League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dundee	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Dundee	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Dundee	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Dundee	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Dundee	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Dundee	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Dundee	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Dundee	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Dundee	4	1	1	2	4	8	4

Second division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brechin v Stirling Albion	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin v Stirling Albion	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin v Stirling Albion	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin v Stirling Albion	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin v Stirling Albion	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin v Stirling Albion	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin v Stirling Albion	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin v Stirling Albion	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin v Stirling Albion	4	1	1	2	4	8	4

Midweek	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brechin	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Brechin	4	1	1	2	4	8	4

Other match	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4

Other match	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
West Bromwich v Kidderminster (2.0)	4	1	1	2	4	8	4

CRICKET

AXA Equity & Law League
1.0, 40 overs

CHELMSFORD: Essex v Sussex

CHICHESTER-IN-MARSH: Gloucestershire v Leicestershire

RENT BRIDGE: Northamptonshire v Glamorgan

TAUNTON: Somerset v Northamptonshire

READINGLEY: Yorkshire v Derbyshire

RUGBY LEAGUE

Knock-out 3.0 unless stated

Championship

First division
Borederby v Leeds
Leatherheads v Warrington (3.30)
Hull v Castleford (3.15)
Salford v Wigan
Huddersfield v Wakefield
Widnes v Halifax
Workington v Sheffield

Second division
Barnsley v London Broncos (2.30)

Saturday portrait: Colin Jackson, by David Powell, athletics correspondent

Courage and genius combined in master technician of the track

Anyone who has thought twice about jumping the net at its centre after a game of tennis should at least begin to appreciate the nerve and agility of Colin Jackson. He goes six inches higher ten times in one race at close to 20 miles an hour. There is no more exacting event in athletics than the 100 metres hurdles, and nobody better at it than Jackson, who will spread his wings across two continents this weekend, racing at the grand prix final in Paris today and the McDonald's Games in Sheffield tomorrow.

Suggestions that he was a choker, a term applied by — among others — Tony Dees, the 1992 Olympic runner-up, were premature. Jackson is not easily angered but the stunt pulled by BBC Wales to puff its coverage of his participation in the world championship final in Stuttgart last year did not amuse him. The pictures showed a bottle on a hurdle, accompanied by the words: "Jackson may have the head, but has he the bottle?"

One poor Olympics does not make a choker out of a brilliant athlete. Those who labelled him thus as Stuttgart approached overlooked the facts: that injury derailed his run at the 1991 world title and that the 1993 world indoor gold medal was lost not by any failing on Jackson's part but by a blatant false start from Mark McKoy.

Jackson's record before his 24th birthday was that of a man being measured up to wear the suit of greatness: world junior champion in 1986, Olympic silver medal-winner in 1988, Commonwealth and European champion in 1990. In 1993 he collected the suit and has kept it on ever since. Last year, after winning in Stuttgart in a world record time of 12.91sec, he was the obvious choice as the International Amateur Athletic Federation's male world athlete of the year.

This year, in March, he set a 60 metres hurdles indoor world record of 7.30sec, the first man to hold simultaneously the indoor and outdoor world records for sprint hurdles. In the same month

he won the 60 metres flat and the 60 metres hurdles at the European indoor championships, another unprecedented double.

This summer, Jackson has retained his Commonwealth and European titles, recorded the fastest time of any 110 metres hurdler this season, and shared with Mike Powell, the long jump world champion, the prize of 20 one-kilogram gold bars for winning at each of the so-called "golden four" grand prix meetings of Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin. More than a year has passed since Jackson lost a hurdles competition, indoors or out: 34 races unbeaten, including heats.

His superiority is such that he has to set himself targets beyond mere gold medals and bars. So, at the beginning of the season, he

'His superiority is such that he has to set himself targets beyond mere gold medals and bars'

said he would not be satisfied unless he went undefeated throughout the summer. There are five races to go, two of them this weekend. He takes ten flights at the grand prix final today, where the hurdles is an invitation event, one from Paris to England tonight, then ten more at Sheffield tomorrow.

After losing to Jackson for the umpteenth time this season in Berlin on Tuesday, McKoy, the Olympic and world indoor champion, said that the Welshman was "the best hurdler in history". Jackson, now 27, is not ready for that accolade. "I want to be Olympic champion," he responded. "Perhaps then I will be the athlete I dreamed of being when I was a kid."

In January, he was asked to say at what point in his life he realised that he would become a great athlete. "I am still waiting," Jackson replied. He is correct to insist

on an Olympic victory before being described as the greatest there has been.

Contenders have to be considered in the context of their time. Harrison Dillard, of the United States, was unbeaten in 84 sprint hurdles races between 1946 and 1948, and won the 1952 Olympic title. Roger Kingdom, another American, won two Olympic gold medals in the Eighties and held indoor and outdoor world records.

What went wrong for Jackson in Barcelona? "There are ten opportunities to mess up," Jonathan Ridgeon, Jackson's close British rival in the late Eighties, says of the event. To the amazement of all around him, especially McKoy, Jackson took four of them at the Olympic Games.

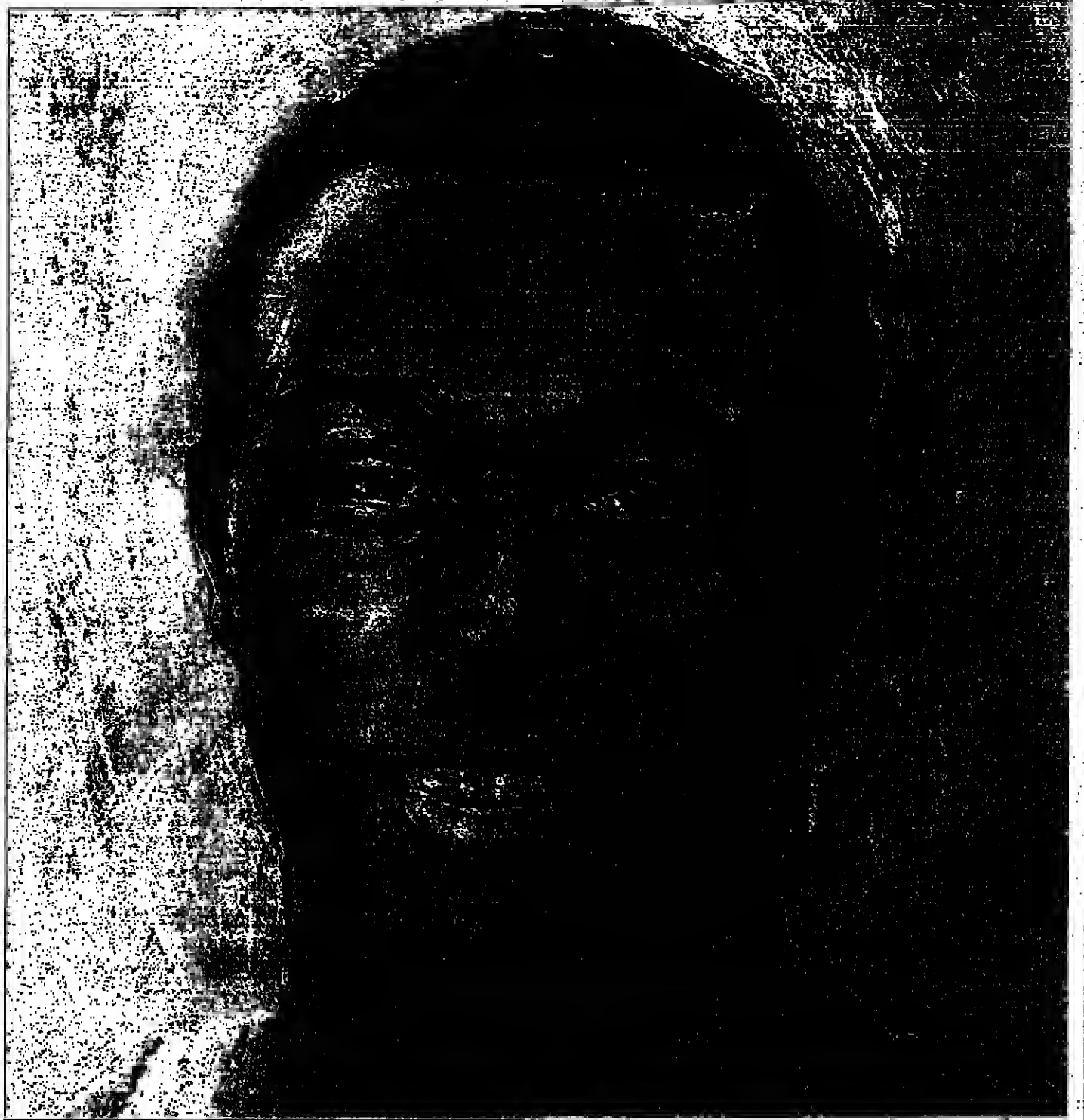
After seeing Jackson run 13.10sec slowing down in the first round, McKoy, a Canadian now competing for Austria, was "focused on being second", so convinced was he that Jackson would win. Jackson explained later that he had been carrying a rib injury which affected his trail leg.

A genial character, Jackson took defeat with good grace. "The following day he was bright and breezy and ready to get on with things," Malcolm Arnold, Jackson's coach, said. His reaction to losing at the world indoor championships in Toronto seven months later was markedly different.

McKoy admitted that he had false-started and that, after one previous false start, he should have been disqualified. "If it had not been Toronto I would have been watching from the sidelines," McKoy said of the home bias.

That starter's gun almost shot the heart out of Jackson. "Toronto made me think seriously about the future," he said. "I wondered how long I could keep taking the knocks. I thought, to hell with it, why don't I just quit? But, like his close friend, Linford Christie, who had threatened to retire after finishing fourth in the 1991 world championship 100 metres, he came back stronger.

Born in Cardiff of Jamaican parents, Jackson was discovered by Arnold, now Britain's head coach, at a junior sports day at



Llanedeyrn High School. His first experience of hurdling came at the age of 12 and landed him in trouble. Trying it out in the school sports hall, he was so pleased with his effort that he went to the front of the queue to try again. "The teacher sent me out because he said I should have gone to the back," Jackson said.

By the age of 18, Jackson had not only run 13.69sec for 110 metres hurdles, he had also high-jumped 1.81 metres, long-jumped 7.56 metres and thrown a javelin 52.86 metres. Arnold was thinking of trying Jackson on the decathlon but, at 19, he won the world junior hurdles title in 13.44sec. "It takes a brave man to turn a junior 13.44sec hurdler into a decathlete, and I chickened out," Arnold said. Jackson abandoned his apprenticeship as an electrician. Now he lights up the track in an event which he makes appear a thing of beauty, all speed and elegance, but watch it performed at your local

track and you will see how ugly it can be. The height of the hurdles, insufficient space between them for three good strides — making the athletes chop their natural stride length — and the need for technical endurance to clear the last two barriers: all must be worked on in training. Then come the race, a wind in either direction can throw competitors off balance in this most precise of sporting sciences.

Jackson brings his shoulder and body-lean low, helping him to pull his trail-leg through more swiftly than any of his rivals. Nobody is more pleasing aesthetically over the barriers, which stand more than half the athlete's height. "It is only a perfectionist who can make the difficult look routine. Only a man with confidence as high as ten hurdles who would contemplate two races in two days in separate countries and expect to win both. Only Jackson who could expect it and succeed."

Desire for glory keeps Morceli in the running for riches

David Miller on the outstanding Algerian middle-distance athlete hoping to recover from sickness and prevail in Paris tonight

AFTER the grotesque sight of Colin Jackson and Mike Powell glowing over their gold bars in Berlin earlier this week, athletes should be thankful for the presence of Noureddine Morceli, of Algeria, who puts a priority on a place in history rather than at the bank.

Morceli is at present the greatest runner in the world: eighteenth fastest of the year at 800 metres, No 1 for the 1,500 metres and mile, world record-holder for the 3,000 metres, and ranked fifth at 5,000 metres. Sadly, illness threatens his prospects in the Grand Prix final here today.

The overall leader going into the final, six points ahead of six other competitors — on account of his 3,000 metres world record at Monaco earlier this month — Morceli was laid low yesterday. He took the decision, having the option, to go for the 1,500 metres today rather than the 5,000 metres, but will only know whether he is fit enough to compete in the morning.

"Fortunately I'm only 24, so there will be other times, I hope," Morceli said, smiling in spite of his croaky voice. "But when there is no battery... what can you do? I'll go for a jog this evening. It's a shame, because I've been going well, and now I get sick. I could win either race, but when you're sick, you're sick."

Morceli is perhaps the fiercest runner since Sebastian Coe to design his career wholly around athletic excellence rather than money, in the sure knowledge that if he wins the big races, the reward will follow. "Money is not everything in life," he said yesterday, "but to be Grand Prix champion is something else, historic. I have to have a dream, to show the world what I can do in this sport."

Morceli stands on 51 points, with Sotomayor (Cuba), Mitchell (United States), Nyong'ato (Burundi), Adkins (United States), Matete (Zambia) and Conley (United States) grouped behind him on 45. This means that if Morceli wins the 1,500 metres, he cannot be beaten by any of the others unless they should break the world record for their event. For the Grand Prix final the points are trebled — 27 for winning and 18 for a world record. In the event of a tie, the Hungarian points table of comparative performances decides. The highest Hungarian points among the six leaders for their best performance of 1994 is 1,249 for Sotomayor's 2.42 metres high jump at Seville in June,

ahead of the 1,244 for Mitchell's 9.94sec in the 100 metres at Oslo in July, and Morceli's 1,240 for his 5,000 metres in 13min 38.5sec.

The prize-money today, with which Morceli is thankfully unconcerned, is £20,000 for winners of each individual event down to £3,000 for eighth place, while the overall Grand Prix winner, for men and women, receives £66,000.

Morceli has opted for the shorter race because his breathing would be even more impeded in the 5,000 metres, and in the shorter race he can partially rely on an aerobic energy. The field includes the formidable Nyong'ato, with a season's best only five-hundredths of a second behind Morceli when they finished first and second at Villeneuve in July. Matthew Yates is the third slowest in the field, that includes Bile and Benson Koech, with his 3min 35.32sec in Berlin this week.

Of the others vying for the overall prize, the most likely winner of his event is Sotomayor, who cleared 2.42 metres in the high jump, seven centimetres more than the season's best of Troy Kemp, of the Bahamas, and Steinar

Hoen, of Norway, with their 2.35 metres at Weinheim and Balingen, both indoors.

Adkins and Matete face each other in the 400 metres hurdles, divided by only a fifth of a second and the only two men in the field to have beaten 48 seconds this season. Conley's opposition will come from Denis Kapustin, of Russia, who is 11 centimetres ahead of him with his 17.62 metres this season at Helsinki in August, and his compatriot Vasily Sokov's 17.43 metres.

There are five women on the maximum five qualifying wins during the summer series: Joyner-Kersey (United States) and Drechsler (Germany) in the long jump, Torrence (United States) in the 100 metres hurdles, and O'Sullivan (Ireland) at 5,000 metres. O'Sullivan, like Morceli and Nyong'ato, has the advantage of knowing exactly what she must do to win, because their respective events complete the day's programme.

Joyner-Kersey and Drechsler are divided over the season by 20 centimetres. Joyner-Kersey leading with 7.49 metres, Drechsler is challenged in the hurdles by Donkova, of Bulgaria, and Reshetnikova, of Russia, who are both within fractions of her best time.

Russian backing, page 1

Ice hockey shackled by money worries

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

THE approach of a new season used to be a time for optimism, but it is impossible to be optimistic about British ice hockey in the present climate. It is three years since Heineken made it clear that 1993-94 would be its last season as the sport's principal sponsor, but there is still no sign of a replacement.

Happily, Benson & Hedges has announced a two-year extension to its support of the early-season knockout competition but one wonders how long the sport can survive without sponsorship for the league and the Wembley championship weekend.

After an embarrassingly short flirtation with pool A of the world championships, Britain is back in pool A, but the chances of survival there must be slim as the British Ice Hockey Association (BIHA) has made the extraordinary decision to stage the Wembley weekend during the world tournament.

Thus, the names of those players who will be available to represent Great Britain will not be known until two days before they are due to set off for Bratislava.

Wage-capping, which saw the sport dragged through the High Court last season, will continue with it, it is said, all clubs agreeing to the conditions laid down. But the same was said last season and it did not prevent argument and litigation on the part of those clubs caught overspending.

The import rules have been altered yet again allowing clubs to include five foreign-born players in their line-up. Cardiff Devils appear to be strong favourites to retain their premier division title. They have lost Rick Brebant and it remains to be seen if his replacement, Claude Dumas, can adapt to the Cardiff style.

But the Welsh-born and trained youngsters are making such rapid progress, one feels the Devils will win whoever are their imports. Cleveland Bombers should dominate the first division and bounce straight back following their relegation.

Physical boundaries suffice on cricket pitch

SIMON BARNES
On Saturday



THIS has been a particularly surreal week for post. David Cheshire writes with a most intriguing gloss on cricket's overseas player conundrum, and all the rumblings about a ban on all non-English players from the county championship. How does this affect the following non-English-born Europeans? Derbyshire: Ole Mortensen, Denmark; Essex: Peter Such, Scotland; Glamorgan: 12 players born in Wales plus Roland Lefebvre, Holland; Gloucestershire: Mark Davies, Wales; Hampshire: Paul Terry, Germany; Kent: Martin McCague, Northern Ireland; Lancashire: Alexander Barnett, Spain and Jonathan Henderson, Wales; Middlesex: Toby Radford, Wales; Nottinghamshire: Michael Field-Buss, Malta; Somerset: Adrianus van Troost, Holland; Warwickshire: Douglas Brown, Scotland; Worcestershire: James Brinkley, Scotland.

And now a list of overseas-born players of non-Test-playing nations: Durham: Jonathan Longley, United States; Essex: Muneeb Diwan, Canada; Hampshire: Rajesh Maru, Kenya; Glamorgan: David Hemp, Bermuda; Surrey: Gregor Kennis, Japan; Warwickshire: Dermot Reeve, Hong Kong and Asif Din, Uganda.

The jumbo jet has been with us a long time. Boundaries crumble and nationality becomes an increasingly irrelevant matter.

Out in cold

Last week's column featured wimpish triathletes, the toughness of the swim-bike-run discipline, who refuse to swim without a wet suit. Doubtless in the wake of these hard words, I hear that the sport has now promised to ban the now-notorious rubber suits if triathlon is accepted for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

"Wet suits are giving us a bad name," said Les McDonald, president of the International Triathlon Union, admitting that some suits now used help competitors to establish astonishing times. In "elite competition" wet suits are now only permitted when the water

temperature is below 20°C, 68°F. "Bah," said a Channel swimmer. "I was swimming this morning at Parliament Hill Fields in a temperature of 59° — and so were a lot of old ladies and children."

Peerless innings

Thanks to the many who responded to a reader's query vented in this space about the great Charles Absocon. Wisden 1875 tells us: that Absocon, when aged 57, took 500 wickets in a season. He played until he was 80, and took 209 wickets when he was 70. He played for a total of 71

years, beguiling everyone with his underarm lobs. David Frith, who kindly supplied the above picture of Absocon at 90, adds in his *The Golden Age of Cricket*: "In the last 30 years he took 8,500 wickets and scored 26,000 runs, and his output in the preceding 41 years can only be guessed at... He did the hat-trick 59 times between 1871 and 1893."

Strike beaters

The baseball strike continues in the United States, and a nation is considering its options in dealing with national catastrophe. The *Chicago Sun Times* has decided to go for the Business As Usual option: they are playing a full baseball programme on a computer — who needs players anyway? — and they are prepared to continue, game by game, until the World Series is decided in October. Meanwhile, a sports columnist is inciting people to come to terms with the loss of baseball by perceiving the striking players. The ideas include: telephoning gold courses to cancel the players' tee-off times and placing "for sale" signs outside players' homes.

Surprise post

Other items from the mail include two pages and a diagram on how to improve

Leading lights take chance to shine

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE tarnished image of British athletics will receive a much-needed lift in the McDonald's Games at the Don Valley Stadium in Sheffield tomorrow. The Diane Modahl drug scandal has served to overshadow the medal successes of the European championships and Commonwealth Games, and the Sheffield meeting represents an opportunity for the supporters to applaud their heroes.

Britain's leading lights will be in action, with Linford Christie, Sally Gunnell, Colin Jackson, Steve Backley and Yvonne Murray performing

in front of what is expected to be a packed house.

Britain's latest discovery, Duane Ladejo, 23, the European 400 metres champion, takes on Roger Black, whom he beat to the 400-metre title in Helsinki, over the unusual distance of 300 metres. Ladejo, who has risen from being the unknown member of the Olympic relay squad in 1992 to No 1 in Europe, believes the race has been chosen with him particularly in mind.

"To be honest, I'm only a 300-metre runner at the moment and then I have to hang on for the last 100," Ladejo said. "I think 300 metres is the perfect distance for me because I'll be able to blast

away without having to worry about the end of the race.

"I'll be different next year when I'm stronger and, hopefully, in another couple of years I'll really be a 400-metre runner, but right now I'm a 300-metre man."

That lack of physical strength cost Ladejo dear at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, when he was edged out of gold in the final of the 400 metres by the unheralded Charles Gitonga, from Kenya. Ladejo showed his fighting spirit with a blistering last lap, coming from nearly ten metres off the pace, to take England to a gold medal in the 4x400 metres relay, in the style reminiscent of one of his

heroes of the recent past, Phil Brown.

He intends to use the disappointment of the silver in the individual race as the spur to ensure he does not miss out again. "That silver was the best thing that could have happened to me," Ladejo said. "I lost form and it all went wrong, although I think having four races in two days caught up with me."

"It didn't hit me until I was on the podium, but I didn't enjoy standing there while another anthem was played. That upset me and I'm determined to carry the memory of that photo-finish with me next year. I'm not going to let it happen again."

Warwickshire back on stage where their act came together

By Alan Lee
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a mid-season cup final of rumbustiousness, the prospect of the same two teams contesting the NatWest Trophy final would normally be cause for depression and disinterest. Instead, today's event at Lord's is as captivating as any in the history of the competition. Warwickshire's presence alone ensures that.

We shall never know quite how this season might have proceeded if Warwickshire had done as logic and precedent insisted and failed to make 322 to beat Sussex in the final last year. But it is a fair assumption that this was the springboard for a domination of a county season unique in the years since mushrooming one-day events spread the honours far and wide.

Warwickshire began this

season imbued with self-belief and their cricket reflected it. The rest of the country took a month or two to recognise their mood but, as the doubts over their strength and stamina have receded, the scepticism has been replaced by bewilderment that so apparently ordinary a side can produce such monumental deeds.

The feeling that they have inherited the earth by default has some merit, for there has been an alarming absence of counties this summer, but this is to demean the qualities that Warwickshire have unquestionably brought to their own game: research, organisation, invention, flair and such strength of purpose that unpromising situations have been conquered regularly and almost routinely.

Bob Woolmer, their coach,

is a proud and ambitious man, but his greatest virtue is an infectious enthusiasm for the game and an endless desire to discuss and dissect it. He has found some avid listeners and, even as they absorb his knowledge in one ear, they have Dermot Reeve in the other, telling them with complete conviction that everything is possible.

Reeve, the brash opportunist, is as different as can be conceived from his No 2, the equable and thoroughly deserving Tim Munton, but the combination has worked astoundingly well. At first, by dint of Reeve's fitness but then increasingly by design, Munton has captained in the majority of championship games, when cooler strategy is required, but in the one-day theatre of improvisation Reeve has no peer.

His captaincy scorns con-

LORD'S TEAMS

WARWICKSHIRE (from 1) O A Reeve (captain), A J Miles, R G I Jones, B C Lister, D P Carter, P A Smith, T L Penney, K J Pave, A M Smith, G C Smith, T A Munton, R P Davis, G Walsh.

Path to final: First round, Warwickshire 301-8 (115 runs) vs Gloucestershire 184 (114 runs) at Old Trafford; Warwickshire won by 117 runs.

Second round, Warwickshire 288-6 (115 runs) vs Lancashire 128 (114 runs) at Old Trafford; Warwickshire won by 160 runs.

Quarter-finals: Warwickshire 124 (114 runs) vs Somerset 125-2 (114 runs) at Old Trafford; Warwickshire won by 2 runs.

Semi-finals: Warwickshire 265-8 (114 runs) vs Kent 257 (114 runs) at Old Trafford; Warwickshire won by 8 runs.

NatWest final: Warwickshire 322 vs Sussex 184 at Lord's; Warwickshire won by 138 runs.

WORCESTERSHIRE (from 2) T S Curran (captain), D R O Davies, A J Church, G P Hira, T M Moody, G R Hayes, J A Leach, S J Prosser, S R Larcum, P N Engwamen, N W Stoddart, P J Newport.

Path to final: First round, Worcestershire 303-8 (115 runs) vs Gloucestershire 184 (114 runs) at Old Trafford; Worcestershire won by 119 runs.

Second round, Worcestershire 232-6 (114 runs) vs Nottinghamshire 174 (114 runs) at Old Trafford; Worcestershire won by 58 runs.

Quarter-finals: Worcestershire 128 (114 runs) vs Northamptonshire 125-2 (114 runs) at Old Trafford; Worcestershire won by 2 runs.

Semi-finals: Worcestershire 327-7 (114 runs) vs Kent 257 (114 runs) at Old Trafford; Worcestershire won by 70 runs.

NatWest final: Worcestershire 180 vs Sussex 184 at Lord's; Worcestershire won by 4 runs.

to surrender a match they should have won without fuss.

Reeve is a complex man, intelligent but also self-absorbed, and not always easy company. Among the matters swept, with partial success, under the Edgbaston carpet this summer is a frost between Reeve and Brian Lara, emanating from two onfield disagreements in June. To the credit of both it has stayed in proportion and it will all be forgotten if there is a third trophy to celebrate today.

That Worcestershire should be their opponents is appropriate and evocative. These near neighbours have not always been the dearest of friends but their meeting in the Benson and Hedges Cup final in July was so lacking in drama and passion that there is much to make up for.

We are accustomed to the

NatWest final being heavily influenced by the toss — bowl first and win the match has been the motto for the past eight finals — but this year's July showpiece was also a victim and Worcestershire, basking first in damp conditions, made no sort of fist of it.

Tim Curtis, the captain, managed 13 that day and has scored only 37 in four cup finals. Graeme Hick has done little better, passing 30 only once in his four finals. But Hick comes to Lord's today in form as impressive as anything he has shown since his Test career began. The promise of Hick adorning the occasion is as alluring as anything on offer, especially as he may do so in company with Tom Moody, whose unbeaten 180 was the highlight of a stunning semi-final at the Oval.

Moody's role in the one-day

side extends to opening the bowling and, on Sundays, the batting. For the longer games, however, he bats at No 4 and Steve Rhodes may be pushed up to open with Curtis.

This would leave the final place between Damien D'Oliveira, who is being released at the end of the season, and Matthew Church, young but not new to Lord's after acting as 12th man for England against South Africa in the first Test.

Paul Smith, the gold award winner in the Benson and Hedges final, has been in Warwickshire's second team this week but is expected to return at the expense of Graeme Welch. There will, however, be no place for Asif Din. Remember him? A year ago he made 104 in the incredible victory over Sussex. Without him, much might have been different.

New champions condemn slight by tour selectors

By Jack Bailey

EDGBASTON (final day of four): Warwickshire (24pts) beat Hampshire (6) by an innings and 95 runs

WARWICKSHIRE are the Britannic Assurance county champions. Not since 1972 has this title, the one the players see as the true test, come to Edgbaston. The crowd, which swelled visibly during the afternoon, showed its gratitude by cheering each and every player with an enthusiasm which belied its number. The 3,000 people present by the finish were on home territory and they had something to celebrate.

So, too, did the players. The trophy, the pennant and £48,500 were something to treasure, and so complete was their victory in yesterday's match that the presentations were under way by 3.45pm and Dermot Reeve, the Warwickshire captain and folk hero, was addressing the crowd. He gave full credit to his vice-captain, Tim Munton, who, with this match included, has captained Warwickshire in eight of their 11 championship wins.

As they set off for Lord's and the NatWest Trophy final, there will be with the Warwickshire team a sense of pride in its achievement which will far outweigh the tangle of rewards of its success. Not since Nottinghamshire won the title in 1981, has the championship been won by a county without a player in the summer's England teams. Teamwork has been the key that has opened the door to progress in all four domestic competitions. Usually, successful sides are tapped in full measure when it comes to picking England teams at home and it could, of course, be argued that a lack of recognition this year has been a large part of Warwickshire's strength, although the pres-

ence of Lara should by no means be forgotten. What has hurt both Reeve and Bob Woolmer, the Warwickshire coach, to name but two, has been the almost complete lack of recognition by England's selectors of the merits of individual Warwickshire players in the teams to tour abroad this winter. The only Warwickshire player recognised is Keith Piper, their diminutive wicketkeeper, who has been picked for the A team for India.

"I am delighted for Keith," Woolmer said. "He deserves it. But I find the selection unbelievable. It's incredible that no bowler from the top two teams in the county championship are on the Ashes tour and I'd have thought that Dominic Osler, Roger Twose and Neil Smith had done enough to be picked for India."

You could see what he meant. In the absence of Angus Fraser, Tim Munton, having his best season, with more than 80 wickets, and bearing in mind his command of line and length, could well have gone to Australia. Of the others, Twose, who has had a

fine all-round season, is the most unfortunate, but a strong case could be made for all three.

Reeve expects that his disappointed players will react in the right way as far as the rest of the season is concerned, although there are medium-term worries as to whether Twose will now decide to make his future in New Zealand. Reeve regretted the timing of the announcement of the England parties and endorsed all that Woolmer had said. But he has no doubts that today everyone will be focused on the NatWest Trophy.

"Throughout the season we have concentrated on the job at hand. We've kept the Ceefax off and got on with our own game in our own way."

Warwickshire certainly showed their strength yesterday. They allowed themselves the luxury of batting on for 40 minutes, adding 53 runs, but using up 50 minutes of good bowling time. Once again, Munton had got it right, however. Hampshire's resistance was spasmodic and fragmentary. Munton himself produced two "jaffas" which accounted for Middleton and Terry to end early resistance, and then Neil Smith and Davis got to work with their spin. Five Hampshire wickets were swept away by these two for mere runs in five overs.

Nicholas remained among the debris, top scorer with 36. But scarcely anyone noticed that as Smith claimed Bowll for his fifth wicket of the innings, Davis was awarded his county cap, the crowd swarmed and Warwickshire were acclaimed champions. Now for the NatWest Trophy final today and the Sunday league, paradoxically enough, on Tuesday, Warwickshire will be keeping the Ceefax off and taking it, as they say, one match at a time as they go for the grand slam.



Robin Smith hits Davis over the top at Edgbaston. The shot later proved his undoing

Ambrose excels in batting role

By Simon Wilde

TAUNTON (final day of four): Northamptonshire (20pts) beat Somerset (3) by three wickets

A PARTNERSHIP for the eighth wicket of 145 in 31 overs between Tony Penberthy and 'Curly' Ambrose, both of whom made career-best scores, enabled Northamptonshire to record the most improbable of victories yesterday. Set 301 to win in the day, they had been languishing at 152 for seven in mid-afternoon.

Ambrose was out for 78 with only four runs required, which left Dawson, who had not been expected to bat because of a damaged finger, to see his side home in company with Penberthy, who made an un-

beaten 87 and learnt he had been awarded his county cap as he left the field. He scored 62 runs in boundaries, Ambrose 48. The result lifted Northamptonshire from eighth to equal third in the county championship table.

On a pitch offering movement and bounce for the faster bowler and turn for the spinner, Northamptonshire's target was not as generous as it appeared. When they collapsed to 75 for five by lunch, with three of the wickets falling to a rampant Caddick, it seemed academic.

At first, Ambrose hit out recklessly. Even when he pulled Caddick for six just after Penberthy had carted Trump for 14 in an over, it still did not seem important.

But Hayhurst got cold feet and withdrew Trump, returning to rotating his three seam bowlers off whom the socks regularly flew to the boundary.

By tea, the pair had put on 92 in 19 overs and, with only 57 needed, afterwards played in more orthodox style. Hayhurst returned to Trump when Northamptonshire were just 18 from victory. There was time only for the off-spinner to lure Ambrose into misfiring to long-off but he turned the ball often enough to make his captain rue his tactics.

Curtis confident of stalling grand slam

By Pat Gibson

OLD TRAFFORD (final day of four): Worcestershire (24pts) beat Lancashire (4) by an innings and 13 runs

WORCESTERSHIRE head for today's NatWest Trophy final at Lord's with a spring in their step after renewing their belief that they can deprive Warwickshire of at least one of the season's leading prizes.

They had a disastrous Bank Holiday weekend when they were twice humiliated by Yorkshire, but recovered, beating Lancashire so convincingly yesterday that it was hard to believe that this was only their fourth championship victory of the season.

Tim Curtis, their captain, had a ready explanation. "I have always maintained that we would struggle in the championship this year because we swapped our overseas quick bowler (Kenneth Benjamin) for a batsman (Tom Moody) who is a good one-day bowler but doesn't bowl much in the four-day game. We've bowled sides out once and have been in a position to win every game we've played but we haven't been able to do it a second time. It is soul destroying being out there day after day knowing that you're going to have to work so hard for every wicket."

With that in mind, Curtis

will have been relieved that he did not have to take too much out of his main bowlers yesterday when they met only one serious pocket of resistance, a ninth wicket stand of 66 in 14 overs between Warren Hegg and Peter Martin.

Lancashire started the final day with six wickets in hand, needing another 139 runs to avoid an innings defeat. Wigglesworth soon had them in trouble with Austin stumped and Watkinson caught at silly point by Leathdale, whose fielding either in the covers or close to the wicket offers some compensation for his shortcomings with the bat.

Lloyd, once an England A team batsman but hardly in the reckoning these days, completed his fifty before Hick removed both him and Yates with successive deliveries.

All Lancashire had left was the defiance of Hegg and Martin. Hegg had been unable to keep wicket for two days because of a bruised hip but held out for an unbeaten 52. But just as Worcestershire's coach driver was beginning to wonder whether he had started the engine, too soon, Newport returned to tempt first Martin and then Chapple into injudicious hooks which were comfortably held at mid-wicket.

Leicestershire let title chances slip

By Ivo Tennant

BRISTOL (final day of four): Gloucestershire (21pts) beat Leicestershire (1) by 102 runs

SO Leicestershire have given the championship away. This was their third successive defeat, only Paul Nixon batting as if countenancing a draw, let alone victory. There were three overs remaining when Courtney Walsh removed their last batsman, becoming, as he did, the leading wicket-taker in the county.

Still, Leicestershire cannot be that far away from winning a trophy or two. That is what Jack Birkenshaw feels and he said as much yesterday when signing a four-year contract to remain as their cricket manager. In football parlance, they are also a player or two away from such success.

Their batting here was not affected by events at Edgbaston, in that six wickets had fallen by the time Warwickshire won the championship: "I think we are going to be left rather a lot," Nigel Briers said ruefully, a reflection in part on a match that had been free of discord. Yet Gloucestershire's declaration, asking Leicestershire to score 327 off 70 overs, was not unreasonable.

In Gloucestershire's four previous championship vic-

tories this season, Walsh took 41 wickets. He had a further five yesterday, including both openers. Leicestershire were unlucky — Briers looked to be caught behind off his right arm — although Whitaker was missed twice before he was out.

If Whitaker was not going to win the match, then Simmons would have to do so. When he was caught at first slip off Walsh, it was not through any aggressive intent but playing away from his body. In the following over, Williams had Boon caught behind, pushing forward.

This had been a pitch prepared to help the spinners, but owing to the amount of play lost, it was not sufficiently worn to take more than marginal turn. Wells went to Ball and Robinson to Pike, but these were dismissals that owed much to a predatory short-leg and misjudgment of a quicker ball.

Ultimately, victory depended on Walsh. His post-tea spell proved fruitless, but not his final charge. In the second of the last 20 overs, he bowled Pierson and, with nine overs remaining, held Mills held at mid-wicket. Nixon was finally out to Pike for 87, made in 153 minutes, and the final wicket belonged to Walsh. It was his 88th of the season.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship Warwickshire v Hampshire EDGBASTON (final day of four): Warwickshire (24pts) beat Hampshire (6) by an innings and 95 runs Hampshire: First innings 278 (114 runs) 71, 5 O Lister (4), T A Munton (4 for 44) Second innings: T C Middleton c Miles b Munton 2 G W White b Smith 38 R A Smith c Munton b Davis 34 K A Miles c Lister b Davis 19 T A Munton c Piper b Smith 6 J N B Smith b Smith 12 Extras (b 5, lb 1) 12 Total (119 overs) 536 FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-60, 3-76, 4-120, 5-120, 6-120, 7-121, 8-128, 9-128, 10-128, 11-128, 12-128, 13-128, 14-128, 15-128, 16-128, 17-128, 18-128, 19-128, 20-128, 21-128, 22-128, 23-128, 24-128, 25-128, 26-128, 27-128, 28-128, 29-128, 30-128, 31-128, 32-128, 33-128, 34-128, 35-128, 36-128, 37-128, 38-128, 39-128, 40-128, 41-128, 42-128, 43-128, 44-128, 45-128, 46-128, 47-128, 48-128, 49-128, 50-128, 51-128, 52-128, 53-128, 54-128, 55-128, 56-128, 57-128, 58-128, 59-128, 60-128, 61-128, 62-128, 63-128, 64-128, 65-128, 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625-128, 626-128, 627-128, 628-128, 629-128, 630-128, 631-128, 632-128, 633-128, 634-128, 635-128, 636-128, 637-128, 638-12
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Warwickshire complete county championship triumph in style



James Bovill, the Hampshire last man, is out leg-before to Neil Smith yesterday, and Warwickshire's county championship celebrations begin at Edgbaston. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Two down,
two to go
in attempt
at unique
clean sweep

By ALAN LEE

ON THE day that the England selectors showed complete disregard for their players, including only one among the 32 who will make winter tours, Warwickshire reaffirmed their status as team of the year and secured the second leg of their attempt upon the domestic cricket grand slam.

They were crowned county champions, for the first time since 1972, after taking nine Hampshire wickets in a session at Edgbaston in what was an innings and 95 runs. Today, they contest the NatWest Trophy final, against Worcestershire at Lord's, where victory would leave them needing only to win their two remaining Sunday League fixtures for an unprecedented clean sweep.

The timing of the announcement of England's tour parties was in one sense unfortunate, overshadowing both the climax of the title race and the publicity for the showpiece cup final. What it achieved, however, was to emphasise that Warwickshire's domination of the season has been more the result of an extraordinary team than extraordinary individuals.

Rayhane Illingworth, and his England panel continued to exclude players such as Tim Munton, Roger Twose, Dominic O'Sullivan and Neil Smith from either of the tour squads. All of them have contributed impressively to the winning of the championship, with a game to spare and Smith, the off-spin bowler, yesterday returned figures of five for 65.

His father, the club chairman M. J. K. Smith, is among the Warwickshire committee men who stand to win a small fortune from a bookmaker if the Sunday League title can now be added to the championship and two cup finals.

Warwickshire, meanwhile, is still playing a "hard" match, on Tuesday, before playing Gloucestershire at Bristol on September 18.

Match report, page 35
Leicestershire loss, page 35
Final showdown, page 35

Gatting dusted down for Ashes duty

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

RAYMOND Illingworth's first tour party is utterly in character. It reeks of purpose and priorities, disdaining all that is fanciful and futuristic. It pays little heed to next year and none at all to irrelevant one-day competitions, instead focusing squarely on the here and now of regaining the Ashes. More power to his elbow.

It was an open secret that the chairman of selectors wanted Mike Gatting in his England squad, as well as Graham Gooch, and the two elder statesmen, ironically the captains of the past two Australian tours, were duly named yesterday in a 16 that was almost entirely predictable. The exception is the omission of Angus Fraser, who will be understandably distraught.

England's most dependable bowler is thought to have lost his edge. His place is taken by Martin McCague, of Kent, who completes — with Darren Gough and Devon Malcolm — the most aggressive pace bowling trio sent on an England tour in the past two decades. If Australia have one bowler of comparable speed, let alone three, they are keeping him quiet, and as their attacking strategy will be based on spin, this is England's way of getting their punch in first.

The other significant exclusion is that of Chris Lewis, but he can have no complaints. Illingworth is not a notably patient man and his dismissal of Lewis echoed the feelings of many cricket followers. "He's had five tours already and not

produced the goods properly," he said. "There are others who warrant an opportunity now." Craig White is the all-rounder chosen, but if his recovery from a shin condition is incomplete, Dominic Cork will go instead.

It will not pass unnoticed in Australia that the two border-line selections, McCague and White, both spent their formative years in that country. It is, however, the spirit, ebullience and on-field hostility inherent in their upbringing that has attracted them to Illingworth, who knows from experience that shrinking violets do not win Ashes tours.

Illingworth is not averse to reminiscing about his own captaincy triumph down under, on the 1970-71 tour, and spoke much about the "hard wickets" to be found in Australia. He is some years out of date on this score, Perth being the only one of the five Test

ITINERARY	
Oct 25: v Chairman's XI (Lanc Hill); 27: v Western Australia (Perth, day-night); 29-Nov 1: v Western Australia (Perth); 4-7: v South Australia (Adelaide); 9: v Prime Minister's XI (Canberra); 12-15: v New South Wales (Sydney); 18-21: v Australian XI (Hobart); 25-28: first Test (Brisbane).	Queensland (Toowoomba); 24-28: second Test (Melbourne).
Jan 1-5: third Test (Sydney); 7: v Zimbabwe (Brisbane); 10: v Australia (Melbourne, day-night); 12: v Australia A (Sydney, day-night); 15: first World Series final (Sydney, day-night); 17: second World Series final (Melbourne, day-night); 19: third World Series final (Melbourne, day-night); 21-23: v Victoria (Bendigo); 26-30: fourth Test (Adelaide); Feb 3-7: fifth Test (Perth).	four-day match if World Series final consists of two matches only.

pitch that comes close to the Oval for pace and bounce, and England may find themselves relying more than they imagine on the steadiness of Joey Benjamin, one of six who will be making their first senior tour.

Benjamin's rise from obscurity — he was still working in a book store six years ago — has been one of the unheralded

sporting stories of the summer, and any suggestion that a man who will be 34 before the series ends may struggle to see out the trip brought a scoff from Illingworth. "Joey looks pretty fit to me," he said, adding mischievously to the assembled media, "a sight fitter than anyone in this room."

Illingworth also had some-

thing personal to say about the theory that Gatting's inclusion creates one old man too many. "I was older than Gatting when I went to Australia," he said proudly, "and I played more days of cricket than anyone on the tour." With his abiding ability to destroy county bowlers (he is averaging 12 this season), Gatting's selection can easily be defended, but it will inevitably be the most contentious aspect of the party.

In his favour, Gatting remains fit, ambitious and enthusiastic, not to mention immensely knowledgeable about the game in general. He can be of great use to Michael Atherton, the captain, if his experience is used wisely. Against this, the latter stages of his Test career were uninspiring and he has to prove that it is still within him to play influential innings at this level.

Certainly, it should not be taken as read that Gatting will play in the Test side ahead of John Crawley, with whom the selectors have rightly kept faith. One decision that has been taken, however, is that Alec Stewart will resume his opening partnership with Atherton, releasing Gooch to bat down the order and, so the theory goes, counter the wrist spin of Shane Warne.

Mention of Warne leads to Robin Smith, whose alarming fallings against spin last summer appeared to have ruled him out of this winter tour as soon as Illingworth's feet were under the selection table. Smith may be bitter to be so summarily dismissed, but at his own request he has at least been spared the indignity of being dispatched for a spin tutorial on the A-team tour of India.

The selection of this party occupied three hours, as against one hour for the seniors, and so many names were mentioned that, according to Illingworth, they could have picked a third team, too. Mark Ramprakash will be vice-captain to Alan Wells, recognition of his growing maturity, and there is rapid promotion to senior representative cricket for Michael Vaughan, 19, of Yorkshire, and the Lancashire fast bowler, Glen Chappell, 20. John Barclay is an imaginative and refreshing choice as tour manager.

ENGLAND A PARTY: A P Wells (Sussex, captain), M P Vaughan (Yorkshire), J E R Giffen (Lancashire), N V Knight (Essex), G G Cook (Somerset), N Hoorntje (Northamptonshire), R J Piper (Warwickshire), I G Bell (Gloucestershire), P W Westwood (Middlesex), M C Stewart (Yorkshire), M C Bell (Essex), R L Johnson (Middlesex), M P Patel (Kent), G Cheppie (Lancashire), O R Kemp (Gloucestershire). Tour manager: J R Barclay. Team manager: P A Neale.

Fraser feels pained by omission

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

ANGUS Fraser, Middlesex's 29-year-old seam bowler, took a deep breath yesterday after his deselection from the England team to tour Australia this winter, and said nothing that might cause him embarrassment. It was the wisest thing to do for there is plenty he could have said, and plenty of people who would like to have heard it.

Fraser's absence from the 16-strong party allows Martin McCague to make his first senior tour for England. There is also a recall, which was widely expected, for Mike Gatting, Fraser's captain at Middlesex. Gatting's county form this summer, allied to the shortcomings of younger rivals, ensured him of a return to the team for the first time since the

Lord's Test against Australia last year. Fraser deserves sympathy, and will get it. Professionals, no less than spectators, like him as a man and respect him as a cricketer for his bravery, skill and honesty. But throughout the summer the feeling grew that Fraser had lost the "zip" which had made him such an accomplished medium-fast bowler. The feeling was not entirely disproved by figures but he is still undeniably unlucky not to retain the support of the three non-playing selectors. Atherton has never made a secret of his own preference.

Fraser could not disguise his disappointment. "I have not been spoken to by anyone in authority. There must be a better way of doing things. I am not tired. I am fully fit and want to play cricket." He is planning to play for his local club

side, Stanmore, today. Who would have thought, when he was taking eight wickets in Barbados in April, to set up England's magnificent victory, that Fraser would not be required this winter, and that Gatting would? It is best not to look too far ahead in this game, as the careers of both men indicate.

In the past year England have discarded no fewer than 11 members of the party that went to the West Indies. Apart from Atherton the survivors are Stewart, Hick, Thorpe, Malcolm and Tufnell. Nine players have disappeared from official view altogether. But it is far too early to write off Fraser, who is still four years younger than Joey Benjamin, whose remarkable transformation from Birmingham club cricketer to Test player was confirmed yesterday.

Pressure mounts on Coulthard to prove point

By OLIVER HOIT



Coulthard: clock ticking

THREE days after the Williams Formula One team announced the return of Nigel Mansell for the final three races of this season, David Coulthard, the driver who will give way to him, sat in a restaurant in west London blowing his nose, wiping his eyes and shaking his head in despair: he had a streaming cold.

In the moments his head cleared, Mansell's impending arrival loomed large in his thoughts. Coulthard has only two races now to persuade the team that he is worth a place next year. He has plenty of admirers, but Michael Schumacher is in the equation, too, because of Benetton's woes. Damon

Hill, Coulthard's team-mate, has been hinting he is close to a new deal and Mansell has already been installed by the media. Nothing, though, is decided.

"The clock is ticking," Coulthard said. "I want to be with Williams next year and I have got two more races to prove I am one of the drivers they should have in the car. I have got to try to out-perform my more experienced team-mate. I need some luck and good judgment. I hope I can show them enough potential to make them believe I could be a serious championship contender in the future."

If Williams do not take up their option on him for next year, Coulthard would revert to his previous role of test driver rather than drive for a

team at the back of the grid. Another top team, though, capable of finishing regularly in the points, would tempt him and several are known to be interested.

Coulthard, 25, burst into Formula One at the Spanish grand prix in May as a replacement for the late Ayrton Senna. He was immediately hailed a star of the future but failure to finish in the German and Hungarian grands prix took away some of the momentum.

In last weekend's Belgian Grand Prix, though, he held second position for much of the race, sliding ruthlessly through backmarkers with the dash of a veteran, always just too far ahead of Hill, 35, for the Londoner to try to overtake. Only mechanical

problems forced him back to fourth.

"Before Spa, I felt optimistic may have been slipping as to my potential for the future," Coulthard said. "I wanted to change that as quickly as possible. I was quicker than Damon where it counted in Belgium and I did not feel I was pushing 100 percent. He must have been pushing harder because there is no way he would like having his junior team-mate in front of him and he still was not able to gain on me a great deal."

The pressure imposed by the relentless competition for places has taken its toll on the relationship between the Williams' team-mates. They had a disagreement in Canada over tactics and in Belgium, Hill, who is still chasing Schumacher in the drivers' championship, complained the team had not forced Coulthard to pull over so he could chase the German.

"We have a professional relationship," Coulthard said. "But it is fair to say we have not always seen eye-to-eye throughout our short spell as team-mates. I think that's natural when you're fighting for what may be one seat."

Benetton's appeal against Michael Schumacher's disqualification in the Belgium Grand Prix has been delayed so that the team can answer a charge arising from the German Grand Prix pit blaze at the same time. Now both matters will be dealt with in Paris on Wednesday.

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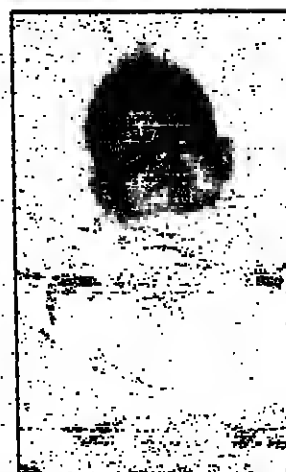


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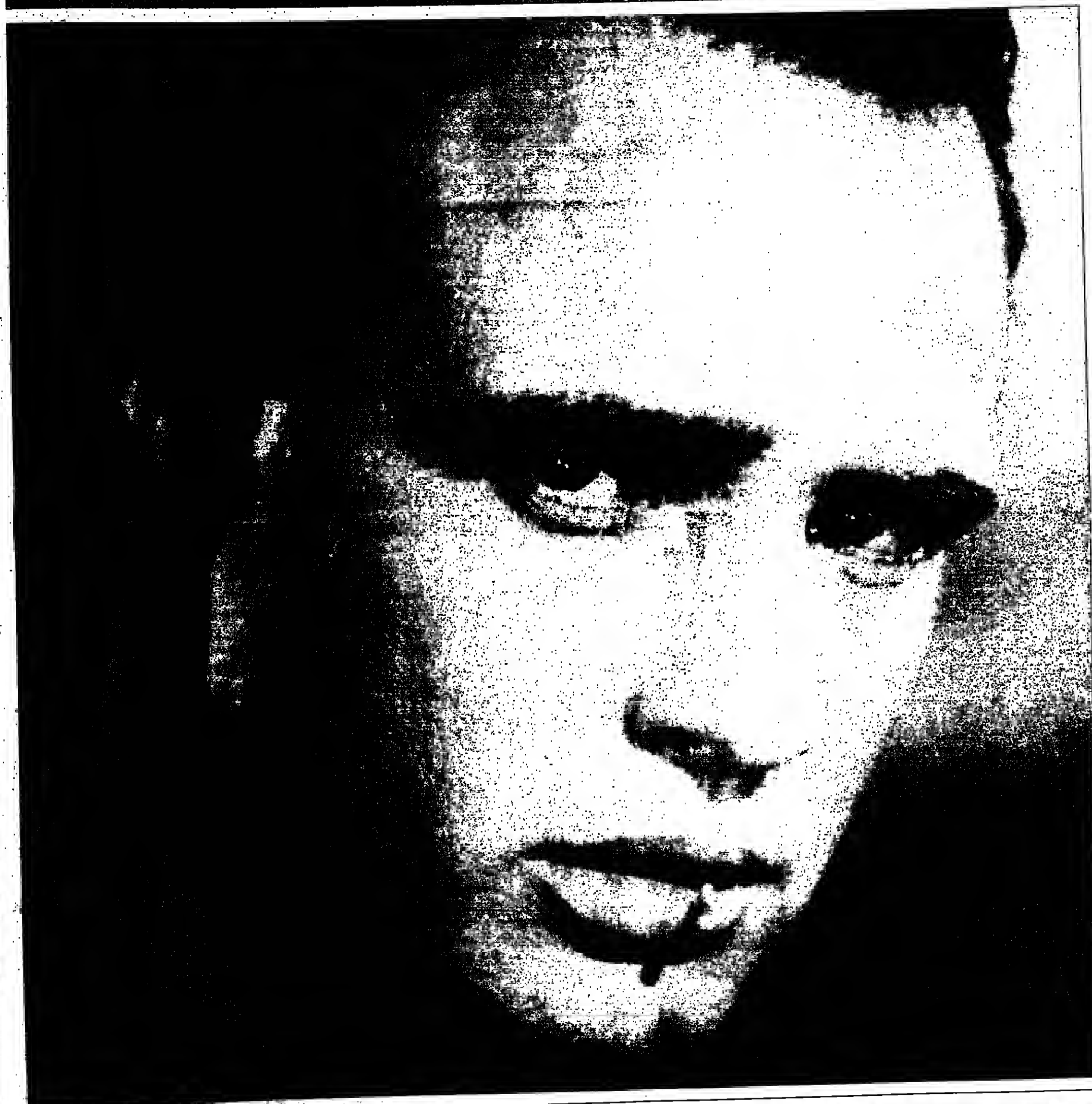
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ALAN JUDG
Sunday Times

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WEEKEND

THE MUTINY OF MARLON BRANDO



By Giles Whittell

The mating call of a yak in "heat" was how Frank Sinatra described Marlon Brando's voice in their film of *Guns and Dolls*. It was true that Brando could not sing. He knew he couldn't. But he didn't like Sinatra very much. So he made a special point of being cast in the lead role of Guy Masterson while the great crooner, in the part of Nathan Detroit, barely had a chance to flex his larynx.

For Brando the entire production was, as one producer put it, "a colossal joke". But it was Brando's favourite sort of joke and he cracked it at Hollywood's expense in one form or another throughout the 1960s. Its main elements were an out-of-control star and a film industry without scripts that were challenging enough for Brando — an industry on whom the joke eventually turned sour.

The 1960s brought out the insufferable egomaniac in Brando: the spoilt brat behind the famous "screw you" stare; the latter-day Don Juan, the semi-educated adolescent from Illinois whose burden was to have become the greatest actor in the history of the movies.

Nowhere was he more destructive than on the island of Tahiti in the torrid spring and summer of 1961. Brando had arrived there the previous November to star as Fletcher Christian in an MGM remake of *Mutiny On The Bounty*. What the studio intended as a spectacular epic, a worthy successor to Frank Lloyd's classic 1935 version starring Clark Gable and Charles Laughton, turned into an unmitigated \$27 million catastrophe. And everyone except Brando said it was Brando's fault.

He quickly went native, taking a large beach villa far from the set and choosing not to report for work for days at a time. When he did turn up he was often barefoot, naked to the waist and bleary-eyed from night-long carousing sessions with young Tahitian women. Their reputation for comeliness and sexual complaisance proved justified, at least in Brando's case. (Most of them had rotten teeth and bad breath, however. Those hired as extras were rewarded with complete sets of dentures made to measure by a dentist flown in especially from America.)

Brando refused to learn his lines, sticking them instead on other actors' costumes. When those actors tried to speak he plugged his ears with cotton wool, claiming to have an ear infection.

When he felt creative he would take over the entire production from behind the director's back, telling the cameras to roll when the septuagenarian Lewis Milestone wasn't looking.

With some help from rough seas

Continued on page 3, col 1

PATRICK O'BRIAN

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CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

WIGMORE OPENING: In an uncertain musical world, the Wigmore Hall remains a bastion of quality, as is magnificently demonstrated by the opening concert of its new season. It brings together four outstanding lieder singers — Barbara Bonney, Anne Sofie von Otter, Kurt Streit and Olaf Bar — who will sing a programme of Brahms and Schumann, including the Liebeslieder Walzer. That is tonight. Bar returns on Tuesday with Dawn Upshaw to sing Wolf's Italian Songbook. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, London W1 (071-935 2141), tonight, Tuesday 7.30pm

PICK OF THE PROMS: Two more visiting foreign orchestras grace the Proms' final week. The Dresden Staatskapelle is the oldest orchestra in continuous existence, and one of the most aristocratic in style. Sir Colin Davis conducts two programmes (Tues, Wed) that play to his strengths — Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* on Tuesday should be a particular highlight. Then comes one of the world's best endowed orchestras, the Pittsburgh Symphony, which plays a stately late Romantic programme on Thursday, and Beethoven's Symphonies Nos 8 and 9 on Friday. Lorin Maazel is not the Beethoven conductor of everybody's dreams, but he's never short of ideas.

Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071-589 5212), Wed at 7pm, rest at 7.30pm

FILMS

Geoff Brown

THE HUDSUCKER PROXY (PG): The what? Trust Joel and Ethan Coen to sock to their guns, even when partly bankrolled by



Robbins and Jennifer Jason Leigh

Hollywood producer Joel Silver. Tim Robbins is the mailroom idiot who gets to be chairman of Newsum Industries: part of Paul Newman's diabolical plan to depress the stock and take control. No one creates better pastiches of old movies than the Coen brothers, and this ritz amalgam of Frank Capra fantasy and Preston Sturges satire is great fun, at least until halfway in. Then the film grows top-heavy and the puppet characters sink under the weight. With Jennifer Jason Leigh.

MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 0148) Gate (071-727 4043) Lumiere (071-836 0691) Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) Screen/ Hill (071-435 3366)

WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN (15): Title and advertising almost suggest a romantic comedy. Be prepared: this is a drama about alcohol abuse, detoxification and after. Taking a break from acting cute, Meg Ryan gives a superior performance as the vulnerable woman who likes her vodka: though Andy Garcia goes one better as the self-centred husband who inadvertently helps to push her to the wall. Far from perfect, but it's good to see a Hollywood movie with a serious purpose.

MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeon Haymarket (0426 915331) Kensington (0426 914666) Swiss Cottage (0426 914098) Screen/Baker Street (071-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332) Warner (071-437 4343)

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

FALLOW FIELD: Enter the new installation at the Royal Festival Hall Galleries, and you find yourself transported to a farmyard. Inside the black, barn-like structure devised by Tony Sinden, Stan Steele and Lulu Quinn, video monitors relay fragmented glimpses of ploughing, harvesting and wind-blown agricultural equipment. When lunchtime concerts are not being performed nearby in the RFL, rural sounds permeate the space as well. So do smells, rising from the troughs of canle-food placed on the barn's floor. They evoke the countryside with pungent immediacy. Royal Festival Hall Galleries (071-925 3002) until September 11.

FRANZ KLING: Only a week to go before the Whitechapel Art Gallery's Kling retrospective ends. He is perhaps the most neglected of



Outstanding lieder singers Barbara Bonney (left) and Anne Sofie von Otter perform Brahms and Schumann at the Wigmore Hall

the painters who pushed American art to the international forefront in the 1950s. Pollock and de Kooning are far more celebrated, but Kling deserves a proper look. The Whitechapel show provides it, and downstairs his big black-and-white pictures are splendidly hung. The boisterous brushstrokes retain their vigour intact, but they are not as improvised as they seem. Small studies are displayed beside some of them, proving that Kling prepared his images fully before starting the large canvases. Spontaneous plays second fiddle to careful planning. Whitechapel Art Gallery (071-377 0107) until September 11.

DANCE

John Percival

CINDERELLA: Scottish ballet this autumn is reviving two popular works by its founder director Peter Darrell.

The first of them is *Cinderella*, for which he had an attractive score prepared by Branwell Tovey from music by Rossini — not only his opera on the same subject but other operas, too, and many piano pieces. After opening in Glasgow, the production will visit Aberdeen, Hull, Edinburgh and Newcastle. Darrell's treatment of *The Nutcracker* follows later in the year. Theatre Royal, Hope Street, Glasgow (041-332 9000) Thursday 8-Saturday 17 (except Sunday) at 7.15pm, matinees Sat and Thurs 15 at 2.15pm.

GISELLE: London City ballet opens a new season with a revival of this great romantic ballet, in a production by Galina Samsova who was herself a memorable exponent of the title role.

Peter Farmer is the designer of the sets.

With this on the autumn tour the

company will also perform *Countdown*, a lively modern work with choreography by Vincent Redmon (one of Birmingham Royal Ballet's leading dancers) to two Vivaldi Violin Concertos. Craig Theatre, Lytton Way, Stevenage (0438 766866), Tuesday 6 to Friday 9 at 7.45pm, Sat 10 at 2.30pm and 8pm.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

MODERN JAZZ SEXTET: Frequently confused with the more famous and longer-lived MJQ, the sextet assembled for Pizza Express's jazz room contains some of the country's most expressive young players. Alan Barnes's stock as an alto saxophonist has risen even higher following his appearances in the band he co-leads with Cliff Adams. Dave O'Higgins easily deserves a place among the top handful of tenor saxophonists, while Gerard Presencer's volcanic trumpet playing is one of the highlights of the bebop band put together by Rolling Stone Charlie Watts.

Pizza Express, Dean Street, London W1 (071-439 8722), Tues, music from 8.30pm.

MARI WILSON/PENELOPE TOBIN: It has taken her a long, long time to live down her earlier reputation as a kitsch beehive queen of Neasden pop. Mari Wilson now appears well on the way to becoming a cult act as a breezy, jazz-influenced vocalist. One of the regulars at Ronnie Scott's, she brings a light, clear voice to some unpretentious cross-over material. Penelope Tobin comes out of the more intimate tradition of the club singer-songwriter. A subtle pianist she has been based in America for two years. She appears with a trio on

Monday at the 606 in Chelsea, an excellent, little publicised venue. Ronnie Scott's Club, Frith Street, London W1 (071-439 0747), Mon-Sat, 606 Club, Lots Road, London SW10 (071-352 5953), Monday, 9.30pm.

ROCK

David Sinclair

DAVID BYRNE: Backed by a new three-man outfit, David Byrne enters his forties in vigorous form. While the playing of Paul Socolow (bass), Todd Turkisher (drums) and Mauro Refosco (percussion) is of the highest order, Byrne has not allowed himself to be so exposed as



David Byrne: in vigorous form backed by a new outfit

a performer since the early days of Talking Heads. Some of his older songs tend to suffer from this minimalist approach, but in general Byrne is thrust on his mettle and his singing and guitar playing is all the better for it. Highlighting material from his current, self-titled album — arguably his best solo offering yet — this is an engaging and revealing show. Newcastle City Hall, Northumber-

land Road (091-261 2606), Friday 9: Capitol, Union Street, Aberdeen (0224 533141), Saturday 10: Edinburgh Playhouse, Greenside Place (031-557 2590), Sunday 11: Manchester Apollo, Ardwick Green (061-273 3775), Tuesday 13: Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow (041-332 6633), Wednesday 14: Shepherd's Bush Empire, London W12 (081-740 7474), Monday 19, and Tuesday 20: Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol (0272 262957), Friday 23: Corn Exchange, Wheeler Street, Cambridge (0223 463204), Saturday 24: Royal Centre, Theatre Square, Nottingham (0602 482626), Sunday 25: all shows 7.30pm.

LYLE LOVETT: Texan singer-songwriter Lyle Lovett embraces an unusually diverse spectrum of musical styles — gospel, folk, jazz and southern funk for starters — which he serves garnished with liberal helpings of deadpan, ironic wit. When he last played here in 1992 he came accompanied by his Large Band, 12 musicians incorporating a horn section and a four-piece harmony vocal team. But he is equally at home with nothing more than an acoustic guitar and cello for accompaniment. Whether previewing material from his fifth album, *Sheeps Like Me*, which will be in the shops soon, or delving into an enviably varied portfolio of older songs, Lovett is sure to provide a quietly scintillating performance. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Saturday 3 and Sunday 4, 7.30pm.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

LA TRAVIATA: Welsh National Opera is first out of the starting gates among runners in the 1994-5 UK Opera Season Stakes, with a

revival of Goran Järvefelt's production of Verdi's opera. Two young newcomers head the cast: the US soprano Maria Fortuna, and the Italian tenor Roberto Aromica (a pupil of Bergonzi). Young protagonists make all the difference to this angry exercise in *avant-la-lettre* verismo. Alain Guingal conducts. New Theatre, Park Street, Cardiff (0222 394844), Thursday 8, 7.15pm.

HMS PINAFORE: The D'Oyly Carte company opens its autumn tour with another excursion outside the G&S repertoire, *The Fleeted Maus*, but is soon back on home territory with *Pinafore*. Gilbert's mordant satire. Both shows are conducted by John Owen Edwards and directed by Martin Duncan, and the Irish tenor Niall Morris should add a zingy new dimension as the hero in the Sullivan. Alexandra Theatre, Station Street, Birmingham (021-633 3325), *Fleeted Maus* Tuesday 6, *Pinafore* Thursday 8, Friday 9, all at 7.30pm.

John Russell Taylor

WOMEN WRITERS AND THE ROMANTIC PERIOD: To readers of authors such as Jane Austen and Dorothy Wordsworth it may not finally matter much what they look like, but it is always interesting to know. With lesser women writers of the Romantic era such as Felicia Hemans, author of the immortal line "The boy stood on the burning deck", or Ann Radcliffe, whose *Mysteries of Udolpho* has thrilled several generations, even their books may be unknown except by distant reputation. "Women Writers and the Romantic Period", the Wordsworth Trust's current show at Grasmere, satisfies both kinds of interest. There are important works of art such as Reynolds's *Mary Robinson*, and Thomas Phillips's *Lady Caroline Lamb*, and documents aplenty. Centre for British Romanticism, Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Cumbria (05394 35544) Daily 9.30am-5.30pm, until October 31.

THE WALBERSWICK ENIGMA: The exhibition may be entitled "The Walberswick Enigma", but it is hardly enigmatic that in the 1880s and 1890s many British artists should have been drawn to the Suffolk seaside village of Walberswick as a suitable place to capture the glitter of sunshine on sea and pebbly shore. Indeed, given the unsporting beauty of the place, nothing could be more reasonable. But still, why there rather than many other equally agreeable and more accessible places? And the artistic population was oddly shifting, without the pattern of a proper artists' colony, few if any settled there as they did in Newlyn and St Ives. But arousing even the momentary interest of Steer and Mackintosh, Clausen and Coldstream, and many more is a sufficient claim to fame — and reason for this show of the light-filled canvases they painted there, along with documents of their comings and goings. Christchurch Mansion, Christchurch Park, Ipswich, Suffolk (0473 253248), Tuesday-Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm, Sunday 1.00-5.00pm, until October 9.

Benedict Nightingale

THE WINSLOW BOY: This sound, solid revival of Terence Rattigan's tale of the naval cadet sacked from college for allegedly pinching a five-bob postal order should appeal to those freaks who maintain a belief in the British decencies: loyalty, fair-mindedness, sympathy for the underdog, and love of freedom. Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065), Evenings, Monday to Saturday at 8.00pm; matinees,



A scene from the Winslow Boy

Wednesday at 3.00pm and Saturday at 4.00pm.

THE MIRACLE WORKER: A shift of theatre for Richard Olivier's revival of a play by William Gibson which seems creaky, yet fresh at the centre. That's almost entirely thanks to Jenny Seagrove, whose Annie Sullivan is wonderfully gritty in her tussles with Catherine Holman's Helen Keller. Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC1 (071-369 1736), Evenings, Monday to Friday 8.00pm, Saturday 8.15pm; matinees, Thursday at 3.00pm and Saturday at 5.00pm.

CHESHIRE

The Dunham Manticore Folies: A celebration of folly-building and a battle between the mythical beasts, the Manticore and the Unicorn. Dunham Massey Hall, Altrincham (061-941 1025), today, tomorrow, 2.30pm. Free (car park £2).

CLEVELAND

Stockton Summer Carnival: Family event includes motorcycle demonstrations, parachutists and a Wild West show. Preston Park, Yarm Road, Eaglescliffe (0642 670067), today, tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Free.

KENT

English Hop Festival: Pick your own hops, see Morris dancers, vintage vehicles and enjoy street entertainers and craft stalls. Faversham (0795 532488), today, tomorrow, 10am-4pm. Free.

LANCASHIRE

Blackpool Illuminations: Take an illuminated tram along the five-mile front. Tableaux include characters from the *Dandy*, *Beano*, *My Little Pony* and Thomas the Tank Engine. The Promenade, Blackpool (0253 25212), today — November 6. Free.

LONDON

Jungle Book: Musical costume show based on the Mowgli stories by Rudyard Kipling. Beck Theatre, Grange Road, Hayes (081-561 8371), tomorrow, 2.30pm and 5.30pm. £3.75, ages 3 and over.

Fish Diddle-De-Dee: Pekko's Puppets tell favourite stories.



Wales: slippery customers

Polka Theatre for Children: 240 The Broadway, Wimbeldon, SW19 (081-543 4888), today 12.30pm and 2.30pm. £3.30, ages 3-5.

Paris Meets London: Street party, with fire-eating, escapology, wire-walking and fakirism. Manic acrobats, unicycles and Mr Punch. *Gabrielle's Wharf* and *Bernie Spain Gardens*, 56 Upper Ground, SE1 (071-620 0544), tomorrow. Free.

SCOTLAND

Fair City Day: Family fun run and many other events. North Inch, Perth, tomorrow, 1-5pm. Free.

SURREY

National Trust Bike Ride: A gentle 30 miles from Ham House, Richmond to Pooleston, Lacey, near Guildford, calling at Claremont Gardens and Hatchlands. Starts Ham House, Richmond, tomorrow 9-11am. Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult. Admission to properties free. Information line: 0353 859326. (Special trains to return the riders to London.)

WALES

Pinochio - The Children's Story: A musical version. Grand Theatre, Singleton Street, Swansea (0792 475715), today 1pm, 3.30pm. Adults £4, children £3, ages 3 and over.

Teddy Bears Picnic: See also baby red squirrels. Welsh Mountain Zoo, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd (0492 532939), tomorrow 11am-5pm. Adults £4.95, children £2.95 (free if they bring a teddy).

Home Building for News: Help in the construction of a place to hibernate. Minera Lead Mines & Country Park, Wern Road, Minera, Wrexham (0978 751320), today, 10am-4pm. Free.

YORKSHIRE

Summer Sleuthing: Who killed Mr. Murgatroyd? Follow the clues and solve the mystery. East Riddlesden Hall, Bradford Road, Kelghley (0535 607075), tomorrow 12-4.30pm. Adults £3, children free.

HEATHER ALSTON

Ruth Gledhill on the outdoor worship at the Greenbelt Christian arts festival

AT YOUR SERVICE



THE BIG, hairy, wild-looking man in pink dungarees and red necktie stood on the stage before thousands of Christians — many with unwashed, unbrushed hair and some with rings in their ears and noses — and spoke of the miracle of creation.

In a powerful voice made more charismatic by his Scots accent, the Rev John Bell, from the Iona community, said: "When I look out at this outrageous cross-section of humanity, I think only God could be responsible."

The Greenbelt Christian arts festival, in its 21st year, had been given a higher than usual secular profile this year because of an act by Samantha Fox, the former topless model and now convert. The festival, with theatre, cabaret, film, fashion, music and dance, stretches over the August bank holiday weekend each year.

We were at the Sunday morning worship, the one time when all those camping out in surrounding fields come together for two hours in prayer and worship. Greenbelt, Christianity's answer to Woodstock, is notable chiefly for the number of youngsters who disdain drink, drugs and even cigarettes. Mr Bell continued his commentary on the variety of youth arrayed before him: "There is red hair and brown hair and curly hair and no-hair-by-choice and no-hair-by-nature," he said. "Only God would dare to say we are all made in the same image. There is Presbyterian and Catholic and used-to-be-an-Anglican-but-am-saved-now and strict and



Everyone gets together at the festival's Sunday worship

particular Baptist and rocking and rolling charisma. Only God could call us his church."

The worship was prepared by a Glasgow Christian community which styles itself the *Late, Late Service* and meets twice a month at St Silas church for an evening celebration. The music was directed by Andy Thornum, 35, who works for the Greater Glasgow Health Board. He led a group of 110 singers and drummers on a surdo, floor-toms, mid-toms, shakers, tambourines, bongos, cowbells, agogo bells and Celtic bodhran drums.

Young girls in cut-offs, jeans and bare feet danced on the stage, on trailers at the front and on the roofs of mobile offices around the site, in a style similar to "rave" but without the overt sexuality.

John Murray, 19, a member of the six-strong steering group which runs the *Late, Late Service*, opened our worship with a solo, *Oh God Our Maker*, written by himself and accompanied by the wailing tones of bagpipes. An

Irish musician, Paul Archer, with a Mohican haircut, then led us in a meditative opening talk. "Find your own space," he urged us. "Look up to the sky. In your mind's eye, look behind the sky to the outer reaches of space. If you imagine retreating through space, past the timeless span of solar systems, you come to our solar system."

Against all this you seem considerably insignificant. Please welcome our insignificance. That is how free you are. Free to lavishly spend your short burst of energy in this ceaseless rhythm of the universe.

"In your imagination come closer, closer to your own body. Listen to your breath. You are a perfect, self-regulating organic machine. You are an incredible creation. You are a never-to-be-repeated, chromosomically unique gift on the face of this earth. Please welcome your importance."

More prayers, dance and music followed. And by some miracle,

there then appeared enough rolls of white bread and plastic cups of watery wine to feed all 23,000 of those present.

● The *Late, Late Service* is at 9pm on the first and third Sundays of the month at St Silas Church, Gibson St, Glasgow (0294 83913).

The *Late, Late Service* at Greenbelt '94, Deane Park, nr Corby, Northants (071-700 6585).

CELEBRANT: The Rev Joy Carroll.

ARCHITECTURE: An enormous stage marked the centre of this improvised open-air church, with clouds flying overhead and grass for pews and kneelers, buttressed by horse chestnut trees in the background.

SERMON: Powerful address from a member of the Iona community, founded as a monastery by the monk Columba who sailed there from Ireland in the 6th century, and re-established this century.***

LITURGY: Written around images of "creation, the tree of life and the universal rhythms of nature".***

MUSIC: Christian "roots" music with a South American and African beat and accompanied by dancers choreographed by Liz Ingram.***

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Veggie-burger, salad and tea, with the opportunity to wander around the site and hear surprisingly high quality youth acts, such as Nicky Grimling, 11, and Sam Gresham, 14, performing their own songs and numbers from the 1950s and 1960s.***

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Universally spaced out in the open air, with no need for drink or drugs.***

COVER STORY

3

'Brando's salary for Apocalypse Now was \$1 million a week'

Continued from page 1
and seasonal rains, the 100 days allotted for filming were used up with most scenes still unshot. Brando had already been paid \$500,000. He was now earning an extra \$5,000 a day. Financial newsletters began advising investors to get out of MGM. When Billy Wilder met John F. Kennedy for dinner at the White House in 1962, the President's first question was "When in the world are they going to finish *Mutiny On The Bounty*?"

One newspaper renamed the wretched project "the Mutiny of Marlon Brando".

He drove some distinguished directors almost crazy. Stanley Kubrick had walked out on the western *One Eyed Jacks* after a production meeting at Brando's house at which Brando allowed each person present to talk for only two minutes before being cut off by a bang on his oriental gong.

What was new about the *Bounty* fiasco was Brando's willingness to scuttle, single-handedly, a multi-million dollar movie for no apparent reason except boredom. He has always disputed this version of events, most recently in his autobiography, in which he claims the press agent he hired to disseminate his side of the story had been planted by MGM.

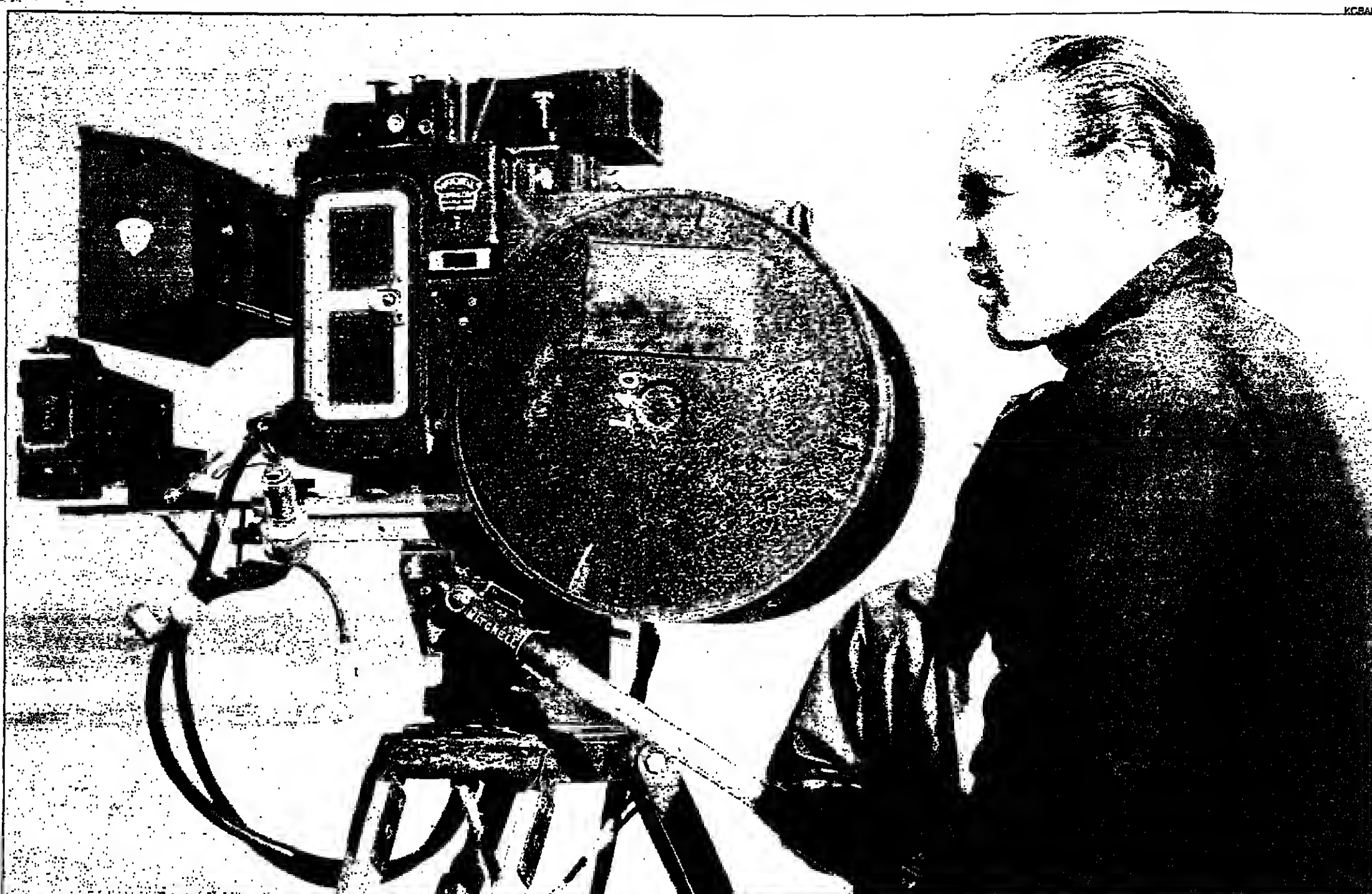
But Milestone's verdict, from which he never wavered, was crushing: "I can only say that the movie industry has come to a sorry state when a thing like this can happen... [The studios] deserve what they get when they give a ham actor, a petulant child, complete control of an expensive picture."

The film earned at the box office barely a third of its total cost. Disgusted at being blamed for its failure, Brando retreated into self-imposed exile.

For him at least, the cloud of filming *Mutiny On The Bounty* did have a silver lining. He had found a woman who treated him as a human being rather than a movie star, and a place of refuge from the mediocrity of Hollywood. He married the woman - his Tahitian concubine, Tatianna - and eventually bought the "place" an "atoll" off Tahiti called Tetiaroa.

For many years, Brando clung to the illusion that he could make a new life in the South Pacific. He envisaged an idyllic, eco-friendly retreat for like-minded guests - not movie types, of course, but poets and philosophers. He hired "aquaculturists" to make the island self-sufficient with a million dollars a year lobster hatchery. When that failed he bulldozed an airstrip through the palm trees and built bungalows for tourists. Hardly any came.

In reality, Tetiaroa was the indulgence of an increasingly eccentric millionaire. He



Brando behind the camera: in *One Eyed Jacks* (above), Stanley Kubrick walked out after a production meeting with him; during *Mutiny On The Bounty*, Brando often took over behind the director's back

would disappear there for months at a time, wandering along his beach at night in billowing cotton gowns, and cheating in foreign accounts with passing merchant seamen via a state-of-the-art ham radio installed in his hut. It was an escape not just from Hollywood, but from his first wife, whom he had been suing for custody of their son, Christian, ever since their divorce in 1959, and from the press. To find it he went out making films.

Brando's first 14 movies after *One Eyed Jacks* in 1960 either lost money or made only nominal profits. He was unapologetic and consistently exasperating to work with, sometimes interrupting filming to receive civil rights leaders in his dressing room. "F--- 'em," he said for the benefit of studio chiefs after *The Chase* was panned by

critics in 1966. "If they're going to be so stupid I'll just take the money... and get out. I don't give a damn about anything." When the British director Sidney Hurie met Brando at the start of filming for *The Appaloosa* the same year, he said politely, "I consider it a real privilege to be working with you."

"Bullshit," the star replied. By 1971, after disappointing runs for John Huston's *Reflections in a Golden Eye*, *Candy* (with Richard Burton) and *Burnt*, Brando's contempt for Hollywood was becoming mutual. "No decent director would babysit Marlon through a picture," one director said on condition of anonymity. "Any self-respecting person wouldn't take that crap from him... Maybe a director who is a virgin could work with Brando but if you've already learned a trick or two

and can reason you wouldn't touch him with a whale's backbone."

Then Francis Ford Coppola gave Brando a script based on a Mafia thriller by Mario Puzo. The 46-year-old liability liked the part of the 70-year-old Don Corleone, but at first Paramount wanted nothing to do with him. "He's dead in this business," said one executive at the studio. "Worse than dead, he's a vampire."

So Brando did a screen test. He had not done one in decades and Coppola was terrified of upsetting him. The test happened at the actor's house on Mulholland Drive and no one said a word. Brando simply stuffed his cheeks with Kleenex and rubbed boot-black in his hair. He smoked, ate some Italian sausage, gestured feebly with his hands and jutted out his chin.

"The guy's terrific," said one of those who viewed the test. "Who is he?"

Brando got the part and the *Godfather* was born. The rest is movie history. He still mumbled and forgot his lines, still wrote them on the set and on those he was talking to (he says this makes for greater spontaneity), and still bared his bottom for the fun of it. But he infused his role with magic.

Don Corleone has earned Brando an Oscar and (so far) over \$20 million. Hollywood's stuffed shirts, John Wayne among them, could not forgive him for snubbing the Oscar ceremony as part of his support for America's Indians, some of whom were besieged by sheriff's deputies at Wounded Knee even as the awards were being handed out. But whatever Brando the activist was up to, Brando the actor was back. *The Godfather* reminded the film community, as Peter Bart (formerly of Paramount) puts it, "that he really is a legend". Brando's own legend was in a way the subject of his next

film. He claims in his autobiography that neither he nor director Bernardo Bertolucci really knows what *Last Tango in Paris* is about; Brando has joked in the past that it is about Bertolucci's psychoanalysis. But, by the director's own account, for one of the film's most famous scenes he simply loaded the camera with 900 feet of film and let Brando talk unscripted. What came out was pure reminiscence, mostly about the "Irish drunkards" he had for parents.

In another scene, when Brando's character sodomises Jeanne, forcing her to repeat

'During The Missouri Breaks, he appeared on set in costume but refused to speak'

his blasphemies between her sobs, Brando himself seems at his most naked despite being fully clothed down to his spayed black shoes.

Sure enough, Brando later accused Bertolucci of invading his soul. He had reacted similarly after being interviewed by Truman Capote (armed, significantly, with a bottle of vodka) in 1957. "Reporters are all scum," stormed Brando, who has never been a heavy drinker, after reading Capote's finished article in the *New Yorker*. "Hired buffoons. Scribblers. Assassins with poisoned typewriters. The dregs of society. They rank on the same level as used-car salesmen, publicity hacks, and the shitheads who write the movie reviews."

After *Last Tango in Paris*, Brando went back to being a recluse.

Kirk Douglas has said that film stars use their time at the top to pick and choose good scripts from the dross. They get rich, he says, on the slide down the far side of the heap.

Marlon Brando's slide has been long, bizarre and very lucrative. The producer, Jerry Tokofsky, tells the story of how, on the first day of filming for *The Missouri Breaks* (in 1976 with Jack Nicholson) Brando appeared on set in costume but refused to speak. When the director asked why, Brando produced a copy of his contract and said it neither required him to speak, nor guaranteed him a percentage of the film's gross takings. Brando was promised his percentage and the scene continued.

In 1978 he earned a record-breaking \$2.5 million for three weeks' work as Superman's father, Jor-El, and waved his cheque in reporters' faces. The next year he arrived in the Philippines to film *Apocalypse Now* without having read Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, on which the script was based.

Despite appearing only at the end of the film, and then in shadows to hide his gathering obesity, he managed to delay production for three weeks with endless discussions of his role. His salary: \$1 million a week.

Brando's acting had become a joke again. There was something sad and desperately cynical about it now, but a more concrete tragedy was looming.

No amount of money could straighten out the troubled mind of Christian Devi Brando. Now languishing in jail for the manslaughter of Dag Drollet, he has been in the middle of a bitter and very public tug of love ever since his mother, Anna Kashfi, cradled him in her arms while

the witness stand in his latest public role. His testimony at his son's murder trial in 1991 was tearful and rambling. In the middle of it he turned to the victim's Tahitian father and said in French, "I cannot continue with the hate in your eyes... If I could put myself in the place of Dag, I would."

Jacques Drollet was not convinced. He said afterwards what everybody knew but hoped did not apply: "Brando is an actor. He can cry and lie like a horse can run."

As a young man, Christian trained to be a welder, played a hitman in a feature film, took too many drugs and became convinced that his sister's boyfriend was abusing her. That conviction led to the shooting on May 16, 1990 that in turn put Marlon Brando on

MONDAY

Giles Whittell concludes his exclusive three-part assessment of the life, loves and acting career of Marlon Brando

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The filming of *Apocalypse Now* was delayed by endless discussions of Brando's role

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Chasing villains, or ratings?

weekend at the Snape Maltings her new Cello Concerto was premiered by the soloist Alexander Baillie and the City of London Sinfonia under Richard Hickox. It is an extraordinary work to come from an 85-year-old: dark, dissonant and clearly suffused with anguish, but superbly written and utterly gripping.

Afterwards, the tiny composer took a bow with a grin as wide as a piano keyboard. She was born in a Yiddish-speaking household in the East End of London, the daughter of Russian refugees. She fought her way through to a music scholarship, only to sacrifice everything for five decades of domestic duties. Today's feminist composers regard her as an icon. She herself must have felt frustrated, even anger, as less talented male composers prospered. But rather than sink into bitterness, she kept her hope alive. And when her chance finally came she seized it magnificently.

Tolstoy said something to the effect that "the moral progress of mankind is due to the aged." I now know what he meant.

Lessons from the Scots

Everyone is upset: Armstrong's former protector, Johnstone, and his friends, even the Church. Odd as it may seem, intricate alliances are formed with the aim of sinking Lindsay. But it does not help his own cause, airing the idea of a new: border nation, ruled by Armstrong. In a case, the man proves incapable of governing even himself. He goes marauding in England again and more unpredictably, falls under the spell of a Calvinist fanatic. What Lindsay do but renounce his humanity and use his craft to lure Armstrong to his death?

William Gaskill directs, as he does back in 1965, and once again sets his audiences clearly through some mind-bending machinations. For long-term loyalty to the play seems fully justified. It is a folk-play with need, and has obvious lessons for our own Lindsays as they start reshaping our own Giltknocks. Be humble, be flexible, avoid master-plans — and never underestimate the intensity of human passions.



So how was it for you?

Lucinda Childs's company with her exhilarating *Philly Glass* collaboration, *Dance* proved controversial with people who don't get the point of minimalism, but gave scores of us enormous pleasure and excitement.

Merce Cunningham, the great father of modern dance, still pioneering at 75, brought the British premiere of his computer-generated *Ents*, and this year McMaster did prove or overcome what he seemed a prejudice against: classic ballet by including to complete Balanchine's prodigious oeuvre, the *Prodigal Son*, by the spirited young company from Miami. The problem is, how to top this new year?

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[illegible]

ARTS

7

NEW RECORDINGS: More Schubert sonatas from Schiff; a lightweight Bryan Ferry; souvenir of a brief jazz meeting

Hilary Finch

SCHUBERT
Piano Sonatas D568 & D958
Andras Schiff
Decca 440 309-2 ***
ANDRAS Schiff's continuing series of Schubert Piano Sonatas is less a comprehensive "edition" for musicologists and scholars, more a library of carefully researched, deeply assimilated and, above all, imaginatively recreated performances for the discerning listener. This, the fourth and latest volume, juxtaposes early and late Schubert to characteristically revealing effect.

The E flat Sonata D568 of 1817 is the early, experimental work, and it is just this sense of tentative, wandering exploration which Schiff brings to life in the very moderate Allegro and gentle ascent of its opening. A beatific Andante follows, putting out of Schiff's beloved and sweet-voiced Bösendorfer piano.

The late C minor D958 Sonata inhabits a different world. Or perhaps not as different as the commentators would have us believe, for Schiff gives space for not only the forceful rhythmic intensity and the disturbing chromaticism which characterise Schubert's later writing, but for the rediscovered serenity, the oscillations, the repeated single notes which seem to distil so much of what had gone before.

PROKOFIEV
Piano Sonatas Nos 1 & 6
Yefim Bronfman
Sony SK 52484 *

THE best performances of Prokofiev's Sonata No 6 in A have been hit repeatedly in the face, so stinging and abrasive is its music. Sviatoslav Richter, on hearing Prokofiev, play the piece for the first time, decided to make it very much his own, and his teacher Heinrich Neuhaus was equally astonished by its "virility, self-assurance, unshakable will, iron rhythm and immense volume".

This is a work whose sheer physicality demands live performance. Yefim Bronfman is still, perhaps, just a little too tasteful, a little too considerate of his listeners, in the sand-blasting first movement, where he conveys the light of the devil, rather than the darkness of the second.

Bronfman is happier in the Sonata No 4 in C minor, Prokofiev's response to the violent suicide of a close friend. The refracted of the opening theme through flashes of rondo, figuration gives a sense of misty layers of recession; and Bronfman not only willingly tangles in the knotty turmoil of the central movement, but sharply delineates the vigorous symmetries of the finale.



Andras Schiff: bringing to life both a tentative, wondering exploration of Schubert's E flat Sonata and the rhythmic intensity of later work

Barry Millington

HANDEL
Messiah
Schlick/Pinnock/Scholl/
Padmore/Berg/Les Arts
Florisants/Christie
Harmonia Mundi
901498.99 ***

YOU might think that with all the Messiahs on the market — with period instruments, with modern instruments, from massed choirs to chamber forces and everything in between — a new recording could not possibly have anything different to offer. But that would be to reckon without William Christie and Les Arts Florissants. Their new Messiah is absolutely compelling, superbly performed and a masterpiece of interpretation.

What if Messiahs most about take "approach" is that, although tempos are brisk, they never seem gratuitously so. And although there is now no trace whatsoever of the old-fashioned Romantic rhetoric, there is no lack of mystery or devotion. The opening of the bass solo "Thus Spake the Lord", for example, is held back by Nathan Berg (who sings with a marvellously rich but flexible tone throughout), producing the effect of a proclamation. Soon after, at "For behold, darkness shall cover the earth", Berg starts

with a furious pianissimo and builds dramatically, to a confident forte. It is one of many fine inspirations, beautifully realised.

Christie similarly allows the tenor soloist, the eloquent Mark Padmore, a fair degree



Christie: compelling

of rhythmic latitude, so that the desolation at "Thy rebuke hath broken his heart" is keenly felt. The vocal lines of the counter-tenor, Andreas Scholl, are clear, but invested with great feeling in "He was despised". Barbara Schlick and Sandrine Flau are the excellent soprano soloists, and the choral singing is equally remarkable.

For intelligent direction and first-rate execution this Messiah will be hard to beat.

MOZART
"Coronation" Mass
Exultate, jubilate, Vespere
solenne de confessore
Bomoy/Wyn Rogers/
MacDougall/Gadd/English
Concert/Pinnock
Archiv 445 353-2 ***

THIS Mozart recording from Trevor Pinnock and the English Concert brings together three favourite works: the Mass in C Major, K317, known as the "Coronation", the motet Exultate, jubilate, K165 (158a) for solo soprano, and the Vespere solenne de confessore, K339. Barbara Bonney is the sweet-toned, stylish soprano, and she brings a delectable presence to bear on the aria "Tu virginum corona" from K165 — the band providing an exquisite accompaniment — before launching into the virtuosic "Aldilà" conclusion.

With fellow soloists Catherine Wyn Rogers, Jamie MacDougall and Stephen Gadd likewise in good voice, and spirited playing from Pinnock's English Concert, the Mass is also given a highly persuasive performance.



David Sinclair

BRYAN FERRY
Mamouna
Virgin CDV 2751 *

MORE a creator of meandering moods than a verse/chorus/bridge man, Bryan Ferry has long relied on his supercilious vocal signature and a seductively smooth design technique to deflect attention from any shortcomings in the music itself.

But there is no getting away from the alarming paucity of ideas underpinning the ten songs on Mamouna, his first album of new material since Bête Noir in 1987. Although buffed to an exquisite sheen by a small army of supporting musicians, it is an almost entirely content-free listening experience.

The songs divide into measured, pseudo-funk grooves such as the title track, and slow, refined expressions of melancholia such as "The Only Face". Various former members of Romy Music are discreetly slotted in among the cast, including Phil Manzanares, Andy Mackay and Brian Auger, who is credited variously with "sonic emphasis" and "sonic distress".

Sonic ennui would be more to the point. Only two songs have any backbone: "N.Y.C.", which conjures a sinister mood of urban paranoia, and "The 39 Steps".

POP SINGLES
David Sinclair

KYLIE MINOGUE
"Confide In Me"
Deconstruction/BMG **

KYLIE Minogue has been trying to transform herself from bubblegum pop queen into a more substantial "adult" proposition, à la Madonna, for some time now. If it is possible for one number to do the trick then "Confide In Me" is surely it.

Her voice is still nothing to speak of, but the song's stinky, seductive arrangement — a sparse, hip-hop beat overlaid with violins, and a sketchy weave of vaguely eastern sounding instruments — give it an unusually exotic feel. More than just an inevitable hit, this could win her access to a whole new market.

R.E.M.
"What's The Frequency Kenneth?"
Warner Bros. 9362-41760 **

THE first taste of the forthcoming Monster album (released September 26), "What's The Frequency Kenneth?" is a scrawny, guitar-driven song that marks a decisive move away from the rootsy, acoustic-rock sound which has dominated R.E.M.'s last two albums.

Michael Stipe's lyrics are as inscrutable as ever, but the tune is good enough. However, it is the infectious danceable quality of Peter Buck's riff and backwards-

looped guitar solo that give the record its sparkly appeal. The CD version is rounded out with worthwhile live versions of "Monty Got A Raw Deal", "Everybody Hurts" and "Man On The Moon".

OPERA
John Higgins

MASCAGNI
L'amico Fritz
Tassinari/Tagliavini/
Meletti/Turin Radio
Orch/Mascagni
Fonti Cetrà CDO 18
(2 CDs) **

TO THOSE who know only Cavalleria rusticana, Mascagni's next opera, L'amico Fritz, may come as a surprise. Passions there run at a much less heated level. Indeed, they are so tepid that Friend Fritz of the title is still unmarried at 40 despite the fact that he is attractive and has a good slice of land in Alsace — clearly it enjoys a more temperate climate than Cav's Sicily. Getting him wedded to a local girl, Suzel, forms a plot even thinner than Donizetti's L'elisir. It is achieved by the local Rabbi, David, who during Mussolini's time was sometimes turned into the

village doctor.

The best-known number is the Cherry Duet near the beginning of Act II. Tio Schipa made the best-known recording of the piece. Here Tagliavini shows himself to be Schipa's natural successor, although there is more beef in his voice. Tagliavini was only 28 at the time of the recording, a rare case of a romantic tenor playing a hero ten years older than himself. Everything seems to come easily to Tagliavini: lyric tone, delicate and sustained pianissimi.

Pia Tassinari, Tagliavini's



Mascagni: conducting

wife, sings Suzel with rather less grace and with occasional coarseness. But it is a good enough performance and well supported by Saturno Meloni as the Rabbi and Amalia Pini as Beppe, the wandering gypsy boy always ready with his violin and a folk song. It is one of those roles slipped in to give the company mezzo a show.

The conductor is Mascagni himself. The recording was made in 1941 and the Turin orchestra, despite the best efforts of Cetrà's engineers, is well in the background. But Mascagni clearly enjoyed his own off-stage choruses and folk songs of an Alsace where the cherries are always ripe. Libro in Italian only.

VERDI
Rigoletto
Pagliughi/Tagliavini/
Taddei/Neri/Turin Radio
Orch/Quessa
Fonti Cetrà CDO 11
(2 CDs) ***

TAGLIAVINI's art is displayed even better in this, one of the best and earliest Rigolettos on record. Few have equalled the zip with which he cracks into the Duca's opening "Questa o

quella". Fewer still have surpassed the control with which he builds up the opera's most difficult number, "Pari siamo", although the second verse of the cabaletta is regrettably cut.

Giuseppe Taddei's voice has warmth and carries with it a rich palette of shades as "Pari siamo" shows, with rage and jealousy transmuting into pure joy at the sight of Gilda. Lina Pagliughi, very much Italy's reigning coloratura at the time of the recording (1953), is the daughter. Nowadays we are used to heavier sopranos in the role, although the recent engagement of oriental Gildas suggests that taste might be turning back. Pagliughi makes much use of the plaintive quality in her voice, not least in "Caro nome". The supporting cast ranges from the first-rate (Giulio Neri's Sparafucile) to one of the worst (Giovanna on disc). But the conducting of Angelo Quessa is a consistent plus: he gives Rigoletto a drive and drama missed by many a more famous maestro.

JAZZ
Clive Davis

PAUL DESMOND & THE MODERN JAZZ QUARTET
Sony 47984-2 **

THE combination proves so natural, so persuasive, that it seems strange that it never happened earlier. By all accounts Paul Desmond and the MJQ's pianist John Lewis had long talked of joining forces, but it was not until 1971, during the Quartet's annual concert at Town Hall, that the alto saxophonist joined the most elegant of chamber groups on the concert stage.

It was to be a one-off occasion. The MJQ disbanded (temporarily, as it turned out, three years later) and Desmond died of cancer in 1977.

Desmond was not the first stellar soloist to record with Lewis. Milt Jackson and friends. But his mellifluous tone and his formalist leanings made him a better match for the Quartet's neo-classical ethos than perhaps any other player of his time.

As usual, Lewis's arrangements cover a delectably broad range. "Greensleeves" begins the proceedings on an awkward middlebrow note before Desmond's fluttering improvisation moves the piece to a higher level altogether.

While the gallant attempt to weave compositions out of the flimsy material of Jesus Christ Superstar never quite takes off, there is always the consolation of hearing Desmond luxuriate on "You Go To My Head" or "Here's That Rainy Day".

If there is a lingering sense that this is a dress rehearsal, we should be grateful that we at least have this brief, 40-minute souvenir to cling to.

HERBIE HANCOCK
Cantaloupe Island
Blue Note CDP-829312 **

NO STRANGER to the pop charts, Hancock has made a return visit to the dance floors thanks to the sampling of his music on Us3's "Cantaloupe". This six-track compilation forms a cursory introduction to his tenure with Blue Note in his pre-fusion incarnation, culminating in his masterpiece, "Maiden Voyage".

* Worth hearing

** Worth considering

*** Worth buying

CONTEMPORARY
Stephen Pettitt

DAVIES
Symphony No 3
BBCPO/Davies
Collins Classics H162 ***

ONE or two eyebrows might be raised at the fact that it is less than a month since I reviewed Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's recording of his own Second Symphony on this page, and even a shorter while ago that I praised his new Fifth Symphony. But the flow of releases continues unabated, and anyway it is the man's sixtieth birthday on Thursday.

The Third Symphony was completed and first performed by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra under Edward Downes in 1985. Soon afterwards the same team made a recording, issued on the BBC's short-lived Arrium label, but if memory and what well-informed friends tell me are both correct, Davies's new version with the same orchestra is both more confidently and more broadly played. The strings are as sure of their



Peter Maxwell Davies

notes as the heroic brass (particularly the trumpets) and alert woodwind.

Spiral shapes and golden sections inform the symphony's structure, while inevitably it paints pictures of the Orcaadian world. It is a vast piece in every sense, its two central scherzo movements, one a distorted refraction of the structure of the other, separating two outer movements whose massiveness betrays late Mahler as an inspiration.

DAVIES
The Lighthouse
Comby/Kyle/Mackie/
BBCPO members/Davies
Collins Classics H152 ***

THIS chamber opera, premiered in 1980 and recorded live in February at the Royal Northern College, is one of the most frightening pieces that even Davies has yet written.

The composer's own brilliant libretto uses the true story of the mysterious disappearance of three lighthouse-keepers at Flannan Isles in 1900 as a springboard for a ghost story that poses one solution, all too possible, to the real-life riddle. The economical music for just three singers and chamber group, goes straight to the heart of the matter. Though the Purcellian catch, Moody and Sankey-style hymn, and music-hall song that the lighthouse-keepers sing all seem like comic relief at first, sinister connotations soon reveal themselves.

* Worth hearing

** Worth considering

*** Worth buying

THE TIMES - NPI
PASSPORT TO HISTORIC HOUSES
SPECIAL EVENTS
RUPERT THE BEAR TAKES TO THE SKY

THE Littlecote Balloon Festival takes place at Littlecote House, Hungerford, Berkshire, on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September. There will be at least 40 of the country's most interesting hot air balloons on display, including the spectacular one hundred and fifty foot high Rupert the Bear. In addition to the balloons, all of the regular Littlecote attractions will be open including the historic "barnyard" house, gardens, children's adventure playground, Roman museum and museum, Classic Car Collection and much more.

Littlecote House, one of Britain's finest Tudor mansions, set in beautiful gardens of formal 17th century and Tudor style, provides a spectacular backdrop for the balloons. Although dependent on the weather, this year's Festival should see over 200 balloons flying. Set in a natural bowl of the Kennet Valley, the venue provides an excellent view of the balloon launches.

Admission (festival):
adults £5.00
children £4.00 (under four's free)

Opening times: 7am-8pm
(for festival only)

Times-NPI Passport holders have been offered adult admission at £3.50 and child admission at £2.50.

Details: 0483 682509

TIVERTON CASTLE
The town of Tiverton, Devon, is opening many of its notable historic buildings, including Tiverton Castle, an historic Norman Castle originally built in 1106, the Museum, Town Hall and all of the churches free of charge on Sunday 10th September to celebrate Heritage Open Days '94. There will also be guided tours of the town.



Rupert the Bear balloon above Littlecote House.

EYAM HALL
Eyam Hall, Eyam, Derbyshire, is opening its private garden to the public on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September also as part of Heritage Open Days '94. The delightful walled garden, thought to be 17th century in origin, but much neglected, is currently undergoing a long-term restoration.

The garden features an original "banqueting house" and visitors will have the chance to explore the inside of this enchanting little building. There will also be a demonstration of the ancient craft of making bobbin lace by hand, a silversmith exhibiting his craft, croquet on the lawn, Morris Men and other entertainers.

Admission (garden): free
(house):
adults £3.25
children £2.25

Opening times: gardens 11am-5.30pm house (Sunday 11th only) 11am-4.30pm (ours every 20 minutes)

Times-NPI Passport holders have been offered a free guidebook to the house and an information sheet about the garden.

Details: 0483 631976

The 'NPI Treasures of Britain' campaign, sponsored by pensions specialist NPI, in association with The Times, aims to widen interest in the preservation of Britain's heritage with specific reference to Britain's historic houses.

Admission: free

Opening times vary, please contact telephone number below.

Details: 0884 233200

Times-NPI Passport holders have been offered a free history leaflet and postcard of Tiverton Castle.



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SHOPPING

9

Shop around the clock from your armchair



A whole world is at your fingertips. All you need to be a home shopper is a telephone and a credit card

One day, you may never need to get out of bed to go shopping. That's if you believe the claims of an company called Smart Store. Next to the railway station in Windsor stands a mock-up home of the future, complete with every device to enable the buyer to shop from home. In the kitchen there is an "intelligent" pedal bin: when you throw away your empty mushy peas tin, the bin reads the barcode and orders a replacement which is then delivered to your door. A screen in the living room shows a "Virtual Shopping Mall": the camera takes you round the "shops", so you can buy what you like and have it delivered. But this is the stuff of *Tomorrow's World* — for now, home shoppers have to be content with catalogues and a phone.

And content they seem to be, for people with catalogues and phones bought £4.7 billion worth of goods in Britain in 1993. The total British home shopping market accounts for £6.6 billion, including purchases "from door-to-door salesmen, direct from advertisements, and from QVC, the cable and satellite home shopping channel. Whereas sales volumes on the high street increased by 5 per cent last year, home shopping increased by 7 per cent.

But this world of home shopping may be confusing to the novice. You know what you want to buy, but where can you buy it from? If you have found what you're after, how can you be sure that the company is reputable? And if you've bought it and you are not happy, can you return it? Beginners could do a lot

worse than to buy *The Virgin Home Shopping Handbook* (Virgin Publishing, £12.99) by Noelle Walsh and Richard McBrien. This gives a comprehensive listing of more than 1,000 mail-order companies, from giants such as Littlewoods, which sells just about everything, to specialists such as Filante Products in Hampshire, which deals in door numbers and names. Each entry gives an address and phone number, as well as an assessment of the catalogue and the goods. (Inclusion of a catalogue does not imply a recommendation.)

Some mail-order catalogues are extremely grand: the Kingshill catalogue (0494 890555, £5, off-set against the first purchase) sells British designer collections, including clothes by Joseph, John Rocha and Amanda Wakeley, among others. Their clothes are photographed by, among others, Lord Lichfield and John Swannell. The company, run by husband-and-wife team Andrew and Patricia Davidson, aims to deliver within 48 hours, and has a standard rate for postage and packing of £5. Mr and Mrs Davidson say they order more clothes from Britain's top designers than any store buyer in Britain.

Catalogues can open up a world of products that were previously denied to some because they were not in local shops — Jean Muir dresses are near impossible to find in Stornoway, for example. And the Science Museum Catalogue Collection (071-938 8008) offers products that are not available in the shops. There are commonplace items such as battery rechargers and long-lasting lightbulbs, but

also exclusive items such as a kit that will transform a drinks bottle into a rocket, or a radio only 3/8 inch wide.

QVC (which stands for Quality, Value and Convenience) goes one step further. Most of its products are not available in the shops. Viewers are presented with a variety of goods from lingerie to *Star Trek* spin-offs, which can be purchased by calling the on-screen free-phone number. Compelling viewing it is not, as presenters utter inanities such as, "... and the good thing about this pedal bin is that it's very quiet ... see?" But it works: QVC claims that it receives 5,000 to 6,000 calls a day, two-thirds of which are orders.

But what if the goods you have purchased by mail order turn out to be unsatisfactory? The Sale of Goods Act stipulates that goods must be of merchantable or reasonable quality, and fit for the purposes for which they are described. So, if that new pedal bin doesn't work, you have sufficient grounds on which to complain. The Consumer Protection Act also helps. If the goods are dangerous, you can complain to the manufacturer. If your complaint gets you nowhere, then the Consumers' Association in conjunction with *Which?* magazine offers a legal advice service (071-830 6000). For £7.75 a quarter, consumers can have access to a team of ten lawyers, on standby during office hours, for legal advice and provide useful pointers. If that still doesn't help, the lawyers can take on your case for a fee of between £50 and £300. That usually gets a result.

GUY WALTERS



No hang-ups about royal images at the Buckingham Palace Gallery shop

Reminders of a royal occasion



Browsing for a postcard

Buckingham Palace is a retail experience. Firstly there is the Garden Shop, part of the palace tour, which is open to the public from August 7 to October 2. Then there is The Queen's Gallery shop which is more suitable for those who want to buy a souvenir without the mandatory hour-long queue to get into the palace.

The shop is at the entrance to The Queen's Gallery, and stocks a wide range of gifts and souvenirs, including after-dinner mints, porcelain plates, embroidery kits and visitors' books. All profits from the shop go towards the maintenance and restoration of the vast Royal Collection of works of art, which has been amassed since the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. Besides royalist souvenirs,



The best-selling range of gift-packaged Buckingham Palace foodstuffs

there are goods which relate to the current gallery exhibitions. Until December there is a Gainsborough and Reynolds exhibition entitled "Contrasts in Royal Patronage" and much of what is now on sale reflects this show.

As well as a fully illustrated exhibition catalogue (£3.50), there are postcards (30p) and posters of Gainsborough's portrait of Queen Charlotte (£4.95). The gold dress the queen wore for the portrait is the inspiration behind designs for hot chocolate cups (£9.95),

trays (£9.95) and coffee cups and saucers (£19.95).

Around 80,000 people visit The Queen's Gallery every year and many of them, such as shopper Veronica Sweeney from Leicester, "just want to take home something with Buckingham Palace written across it". There is plenty on sale to satisfy this wish, including a range of gift-packaged Buckingham Palace foodstuffs such as treacle biscuits (£2.50), black cherry jam (£1.95) and after-dinner mints (£2.95), which are bestsellers.

Also popular are the Bridgewater's Royal Mews mugs (£6.95) decorated with a royal coach and mounted guardsman, and whisky tumblers (£5.95) depicting the various state coaches including the Glass, Gold and Irish State coaches. For children there are rather complicated looking cardboard cut-out models of a Chief Yeoman Warder (£1.95), and videos of Prince Charles's story about *The Legend of Lochnagar* (£9.99).

Toy soldier enthusiasts will be thrilled at the sight of



Toy soldiers are popular

massed ranks of coloured metal Scots Guard pipers, soldiers, policemen and mounted Lifeguards, which can be bought individually (from £2.95) or as a set (£37.95).

Most Queen's Gallery shoppers settle for a slice of royal memorabilia: some, such as Rick Dowling from Orlando, Florida, come in search of an ancestral bond. "One of my ancestors was Colonel Francis Wyndham who hid Charles II after the battle of Worcester," says Mr Dowling. "I'm going to buy a history book about it and a poster of Charles II as a kid to take back home."

ALICIA DRAKE

• The Queen's Gallery shop (071-930 4832) is open 10am to 5.30pm daily until October 2, then Tuesday-Saturday as above, 2-5pm Sunday, closed Monday.

THE TIMES

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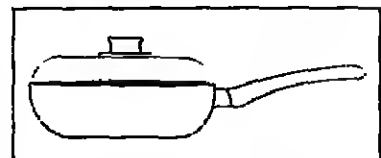
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Birds and bees and Alice and Murphy

I have just cut the last crop of the season: a field of grass, clover and lucerne. If the weather is kind, in a week or so the sun and the late summer breezes will have turned it into hay so sweet that I wish I could bottle its scent and send you a breath. Of course, I have now been at this game long enough to know that a spell of settled, dry weather at this time of year is like winning the pools; but the day I mowed the meadow was one of such sunshine and crystal clear air I doubted the weather could ever again be sufficiently malicious to turn against me.

It was a truly splendid day. The horses plodded willingly, the rattling clipper followed, scything through the blue lucerne flowers, the red-headed clover

haymaking process are the rabbits who, sensing the approach of the clipper blade, dive deeper into the field. As the mowing continues, the area of standing grass diminishes till you end up with the pathetic sight of a rabbit cowering behind the last two blades of grass, pleading for mercy. Its wish is usually granted.

You might, by now, have got the impression that all our late-summer haymaking

any comparisons to make and consequently no offence to take if novice attempts were less than perfect. I have reason to believe that things went to plan, and Polly should produce her first litter soon. So I took young Murphy off the novice slopes and gave him a mountain to conquer. He is now with Alice, our oldest, most distinguished and senior sow. But she will have nothing to do with him. She snarls at him, strikes him with her snout and flings him away from the feeding trough as if she were tossing aside a mere trifle rather than a hefty lump of all-male black pig. I give him credit for his perseverance; he keeps coming back for more and he shows all the right instincts. I have seen him following our Alice around



FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

covered in frantic bees, and the occasional white-and-yellow flowers of potatoes, which have lain dormant for the three years since we last grew spuds on this plot. As we mowed in ever decreasing circles round the field, swallows joined us, swooping and diving, until by the end of the day they flew off exhausted to form regimental lines along the telephone wires, rehearsing for the day when they head south.

I have never been sure why swallows join in haymaking. At first I thought they might be protecting young; but, of course, they rear their chicks in the eaves of our barn, or in a precariously balanced nest on one particular beam over our stable, where the fallow from the nest lands directly on the back of the horse standing innocently at his manger (if the horse stands still long enough, it seems to have been covered in an unseasonal shower of snow).

The only losers in this

was conducted to the tune of some rural rhapsody, but I am afraid I must inject a discordant note. Never having had any kind of training in social work, or having given any academic thought to the business of relationships, I am a bit stumped as to how to handle a particular problem that has arisen.

We have a young boar, called Murphy, who is now a year old and ready for work. We keep Large Black pigs, an old and rare breed, and boars are few and far between. Having one on the premises saves much travelling for the sows, and helps other owners of sows for whom the keeping of a boar would not be worthwhile. But is Murphy up to the job?

A few months ago, I bought a lovely fat gilt, or maiden sow, which we have named Polly. She is deliciously round and good-natured and I marked her down to be Murphy's first conquest. After all, they were both virgins, so neither had

with his nose in such a position that it looks as if there is some short string between her tail and his snout.

But still she takes no notice. Things are at such a low ebb that, last night, I discovered he had been thrown out of the marital sty and was sleeping under the stars. Now they are squabbling again and the only sound that disturbed the peace of the hay meadow was the anguished squeal of young Murphy as Alice started to beat him up again. It sounds like *Jurassic Park* up there, and even I cannot persuade myself that they are cries of ecstasy.

I have no idea what to do next. I can try giving them a good talking to, or sending the miserable old sow a bunch of flowers and pretending they came from the boar. I could play them the raunchy Desmond Morris video. Or, perhaps, I should sit them in the hay meadow for an hour or two to watch the birds and the bees.



The Kyle Bridge will link the island with the Scottish mainland and make the ferry redundant. It could also prove the death knell for Kyleakin village

A bridge too far?



Mrs Clodagh Mackenzie

Will this be the sinking of the boat that speeds over the sea to the Isle of Skye?

If things go according to schedule, the village of Kyleakin on the Isle of Skye has about 18 months to live. Kyleakin is the landing place of the ferry crossing from the mainland. Without the ferry it will have no reason to exist. The bridge is coming.

The Kyle Bridge is politics. It is the Scottish Office response to England's trailblazing Dartford Bridge over the Thames, which was built with private money and is being paid for by tolls. But Skye is not Dartford, and the Kyle Bridge can expect as much traffic in a year as Dartford's handles in a day.

And then there is Kyleakin. It is a quiet place, ordered and whitewashed and gathered round a wide, uncut and ungrazed grass square. It stands on one side of its single through-road and looks, admirably out to a landscape of wonders, a scatter of islands. The bridge will draw a veil of concrete over all that.

Kyleakin exists on passing trade when the ferry brings passengers ashore. The bridge will not bring passing trade; it will bypass the village. The ferry is also the village's main employer, of about 30 people. The bridge will make them redundant.

Kyleakin has only two attractions for tourists: the ruin of Castle Maol and the gardens of Kyle House. The ruin, rampant on its rock, compels the eye from the Skye-bound ferry, but the bridge landfill is at the far end of the village, from where the castle cannot be seen.

The Kyle House gardens are the subject of a conservation agreement between the owner, Mrs Clodagh Mackenzie, and the National Trust for Scotland. Once you could walk through the formal gardens at the front of the house to the woodland at the back, where a viewpoint above the sea, called the Look Out, enchanted visitors and prompted superlatives in the remarks column of the visitors' book. But now that the bridge has come ashore not far from the Look

Out, the conservation agreement has had the spirit torn out of it and Mrs Mackenzie has discontinued the remarks column.

In 1990, the NT called for a bridge that would be "a major Scottish landmark and should be light and transparent". Since then, the trust has lapsed into silence, leaving others to fight a hopeless rearguard action.

The bridge is likely to be the ugliest and cheapest that money can buy. This will not be a good bridge for Kyleakin.

A vessel which can take at least ten cars, confident in the public affection for a ferry and in the Skye weather's ability to close the bridge far more often than its designers believe.

But surely there is an objective view of all this? Surely the bridge builders and its Scottish Office instigators can't have got it all as hopelessly wrong as people in Kyleakin say. Perhaps vested interests have blinded objectivity.

I asked the Government's advisers on something as touchy as a new bridge in the

Ban beneath the bridge (the light will now be on the bridge), he responded that he was sure the commissioners would want the lighthouse to outlast "that bridge".

Back at Kyle House, I sat at the Look Out, contemplating the nearest of the bridge's supports, perhaps 50 yards away. It is a 40ft high concrete tower, which will carry a road on top. The place reverberates with the clamour of construction. In the few hulls, the building site banter of workmen turns the air blue and cloudbursts of falling litter supplement the seasonal Skye deluges of rain and midges.

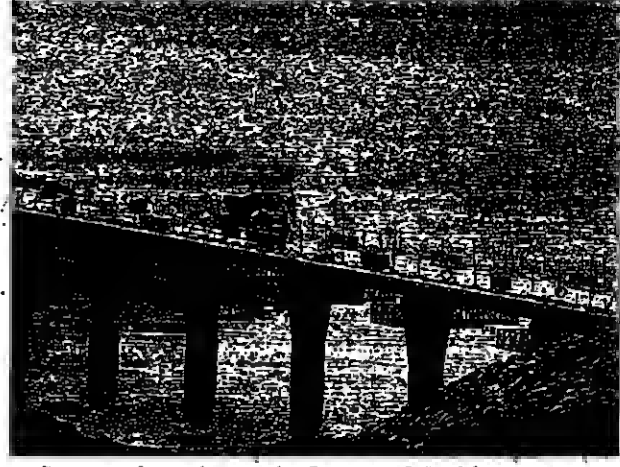
Not long ago the view would have been uninterrupted clear across to Philean. But, it was there that the writer Gavin Maxwell spent his last years, fighting the cancer that would kill him, and trying to realise the dream of a wildlife sanctuary. Mrs Mackenzie remembers him with great affection and helped to nurse him through the last months.

"He was always making SOS calls to me, depending on who was coming; what guest he wanted to impress," she says. "There were gifts. Once it was a bag of coal. Once it was 'spectacular flowers', and I was rowed across by one of his old boys bearing a gigantic lily. He was an exciting neighbour. He was never dull."

He was also a writer of genius. I think of him in the same breath as Laurie Lee, and you suspect that posterity will not dare to treat Laurie Lee and his Cotswolds the way the concrete bulk of the bridge throws its shadow down on Maxwell's dead dreams.

If Maxwell had lived and his sanctuary had flourished, would the thing still have been done? Would such ugliness still have prevailed in the midst of so much vision, amid such a landscape of wonders? You look at Mrs Mackenzie watching the bridge eat the soul from her home of 30 years. You do not hold out much hope that it would have been otherwise.

JIM CRUMLEY



Concrete intrudes on the famous Kyleakin seascape

But then, the more you un-wrap the layers of frustration, anger and bitterness which now envelop the saga, the more difficult it becomes to find someone for whom it will be a good bridge. Many Skye people say that, what with the much improved 24-hour ferry service on vessels big enough to absorb even the midsummer tourists, well, who really needs the bridge?

Meanwhile Caledonian MacBrayne (a nationalised company) has received an instruction from the Secretary of State for Scotland that it must cease operating its ferry service the day the bridge opens. This under the Government that champions free enterprise.

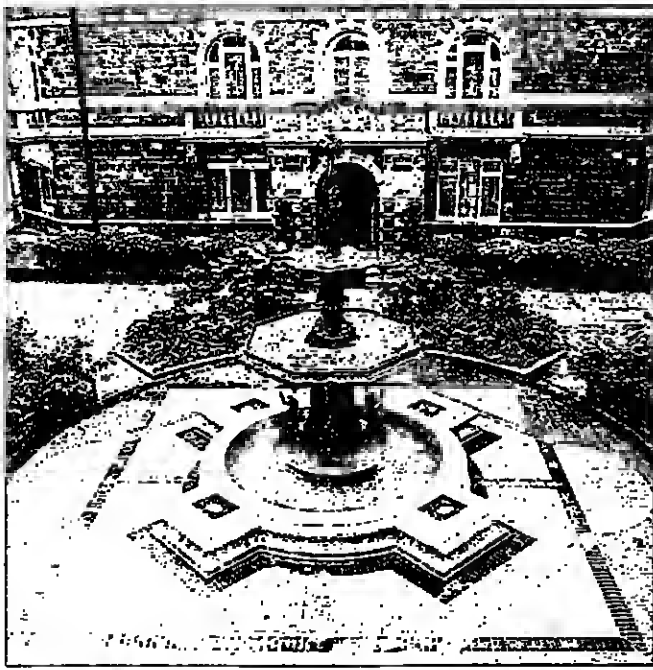
So now there is the new Skye Boat Company, which is hellbent on providing a service and is scouring the country for world-famous landscape, the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland, for its view.

The first comment on the bridge scheme by the commission's secretary, Charles Prosser, was: "Unrelenting disapproval of every part of every way it has been handled." His final comment was: "This is the least popular bridge ever erected in the history of mankind."

In between, he cited the unprecedented unanimity of the design profession's opposition to the bridge: the commission had not been consulted once since the contract was awarded (an ominous precedent considering the pressing question of a new Forth Bridge near Edinburgh); and when he was contacted by the Northern Lighthouse Board, which wants to demolish the listed lighthouse on Philean

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Blue arrows of the summer sky

ON the door of St Bega's church, on the shores of Bassenthwaite Lake in Cumbria, there is a notice: "Please close the door because of the swallows." Swallows dive confidently in and out of barn doors, but if they swoop into a church looking for somewhere to nest they can get trapped when they try to fly out again through the high windows.

There are certainly plenty of them about in the Lake District at the moment. Where the sheep are drifting through low grass, the swallows sweep to and fro in front of them, picking up the flying insects that the sheep have disturbed. The birds have insignificant beaks, but they have a wide gape, and they just gulp down the insects as they sweep through the air. Occasionally, though, they make use of their beaks: one has been recorded sitting by a spider's web and picking up the flies as they got caught in it.

Most of the young birds are now out of the nest, and they form a large proportion of the

loose groups that constantly move round the fields and farms looking for good hunting grounds. When you watch them flying round you, the young seem to be as deft on the wing as their parents, but they are probably not. They have not yet grown the long feathers either side of the tail that the adults tilt for ultra-fine control when they swerve in pursuit of a fly.

High in the sky, they twitter all the time, and when alarmed they make loud chinking cries. They will mob a sparrowhawk if it appears on the scene, and drive it away.

Swallows do not have much competition for their food, though last week I saw a spotted flycatcher sitting in a gnarled old holly at the edge of a sheep pasture and darting out every now and again to catch insects while the swallows flashed past. Fortunately there were no collisions.

In some barns you can still hear young birds murmuring in their nest high in the rafters, because the swallow

nests late and has two or even three broods. Young from earlier broods, and adults that have finished nesting, are beginning to gather now on



Swallows will soon fly south

telephone wires. This sociable habit seems to bind them together as a flock before they set off on their very long migration south.

Their winter home is in southern Africa, and it is thought that they originated there, only acquiring the habit

of migrating north in our summer about 15,000 years ago, as the Ice Age glaciers retreated. The warming of Europe opened up new territories with abundant food, but only those which turned south again in the autumn survived. The last Britain's shores for a month or more. So there is still plenty of time to look out for them in the sky, their twitters sprinkling down and their wings continually opening and closing, so that one moment they are fluttering, and the next looking like a darting blue arrow.

DERWENT MAY

What's about birds? Watch out for migrating waters, especially green sandpipers, common sandpipers and greenshanks now appearing on inland waters. Twitters - Red-necked phalarope at Elmley, Kent; several buff-breasted and pectoral sandpipers and more American waters are expected, especially in the West. Details from *Birding*, 0971 700222. Calls cost 30p a minute, cheap rate, 40p at all other times. Robin Jacques is away.

COLLECTING 11



A man who chases shadows of time

From Egyptian shadow sticks to moveable gnomons, the sun still shines on portable sundials, says Michael Hall

After an hour or so talking to Christopher Daniel about his collection of portable sundials I realised I had left my watch at home. This was an opportunity too good to miss, even if it was unfair to put a dial to the test on an overcast morning. Then an unexpected shaft of sunlight cut across HQS Wellington, the floating home of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, on the Victoria Embankment in London, where we had met to look at the collection in a suitable setting. Grabbing a cylinder dial, Mr Daniel strode over to a portable, and a few moments of intense concentration followed. "Eleven o'clock - no eleven-fifteen." Solar time proved about a quarter of an hour out from clock time, but I was impressed.

Mr Daniel's interest in sundials goes back to the mid-1960s, when he was working at the National Maritime Museum.

His 22 years there (he left in 1986) provided an excellent opportunity to study one of the greatest collections of portable dials in the world. He is also an expert designer of dials, a skill that requires considerable mathematical expertise. Mr Daniel's first major commission was the equinoctial mean-time dolphin sundial, made for the National Maritime Museum in 1977 by the sculptor Edwin Russell. A reduced version in a limited edition made of bronze by Brookbrae Ltd of London, is already a much sought-after collector's item. Other projects have included the reconstruction of the 17th-century wall dial at the Tower of London and a six-foot-high double polar dial for Otley in Yorkshire.

"I never really set out to collect," Mr Daniel says, "but over the years I've accumulated quite a number." Most people are familiar with the fixed horizontal dials in gardens, but Mr Daniel explains that portable ones have a long history. "The Egyptians were using portable devices for telling the time by about 1500 BC - they called them 'shadow sticks'. One of the oldest in this country is a Saxon silver dial at Canterbury Cathedral."



Christopher Daniel collects and designs sun dials

Perhaps the most attractive examples in Mr Daniel's collection are the pocket dials, many of which were made in silver as presentation pieces for wealthy travellers. In the early 16th century, scientific instrument makers in Germany began to combine a dial with a magnetic compass. "These are very common," Mr Daniel says, "a mark of how growing trade and travel were making accurate time-keeping increasingly important."

One of the most famous makers of pocket dials in the 18th century was Michael Butterfield, an English craftsman who worked in Paris. "Most dials can be used only in a certain latitude," Mr Daniel explains. "But merchants wanted a time piece that could be used in different parts of the world. So Butterfield made dials which could be adjusted for different latitudes." This was done by moving the position of the "gnomon" - the pointer - which Butterfield made in the shape of a bird's head. His dials were much imitated. Among the prizes of Mr Daniel's collection is an 18th-century brass universal equinoctial dial, which in 1992 he loaned to Robin Knox-Johnston who was retracing one of Columbus's voyages. Particularly intriguing is a weighty brass cannon dial on a marble base, a late 19th-century version of what appears to have been an 18th-century French invention. At midday, the sun



Top: a compass dial dating from 1860. Top right: a folding horizontal dial made by James Rowland of Bristol in 1810. Centre: a 1981 limited edition bronze miniature of the dolphin dial in Greenwich, London. Right: a cannon dial from around 1900

examples can be expensive, especially if their maker can be identified. Even an anonymous 18th-century brass equinoctial ring dial will cost £1,200-£1,800, and fine Butterfield pocket dials fetch more than £1,000. Later examples are usually much cheaper.

- The author is Visual Arts Editor of Country Life.
- The British Sundial Society, 112 Whitehall Road, London E4 6DW.
- Sundial specialists: Rogers Turner Books Ltd, 22 Nelson Road, London, SE10 (081-853 5271); Harriet Wynter Ltd (071-352 6944) deals in antique scientific instruments, especially sundials.
- Places to visit: National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London (081-853 4422); Museum of the History of Science (0865 272200) in Oxford; Whipple Museum of the History of Science (0223 334540) in Cambridge.



□ Tiny pottery figures by makers such as Royal Doulton, Beswick and Wade could fetch anything between £10 and £1,000 at the Potteries Antiques Centre auction today. Most are less than 50 years old, but are already sought-after.

□ Pianomania breaks out at Phillips in Bayswater on Monday when more than 100 examples go under the hammer. An early Broadwood dated 1798 could fetch between £4,000 and £6,000, while a Steinway grand is estimated at £8,000 to £12,000. Prices from £50.

□ Holloway's of Bambery has an auction of period clothing on Tuesday. Expect to pay between £50 and £200 for a beaded

1920s or 1930s dress. Victorian christening robes cost £20 to £50 each. A splendid oddity is the Victorian dressmaker's dummy used by the late painter Joanne Pemberton-Longman in her work, complete with its original satin dress (£100 to £150) and for less than £50, a trio of bowler hats awaits a new owner.

□ An auction of Charlie Parker's memorabilia takes place at Christie's South Kensington on Thursday. The cream plastic alto saxophone with which the jazz genius wowed his fans in 1953 is expected to sell for between £30,000 and £40,000. Other less glittering mementoes being

Salerooms offered by the performer's widow include a series of fives and fifties from the early 1950s (£1,500 to £2,000), and a two-page letter from the director of Parker's recording company warning Chan that unless her man resisted alcohol and drugs, he would "wind up a derelict" is offered, complete with Chan's philosophical reply (£1,500 to £2,500).

□ On Thursday Phillips is selling the contents of the Turret Bookshop in London, famous for its connection with the colourful bookseller, publisher and supporter of writers and poets, Bernard Stone. Apart from signed first editions of works by

Samuel Beckett and James Joyce, the sale includes a rare surviving example of a poem by Ralph Steadman, published on a brown paper bag (£75 to £100).

• Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (071-581 7611). Holloway's, 49 Parsons Street, Bambery, Croydon (0253 253197). Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-639 6602). Phillips Bayswater, 10 Salem Road, London W2 (071-229 9090). The Potteries Antiques Centre, 271 Waterloo Road, Cobridge, Stoke-on-Trent (0782 201455).

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

THE SOTHEBY'S DIARY



SEPTEMBER 1994

5
VETERAN & VINTAGE MOTOR VEHICLES
AT THE RAF MUSEUM, HENDON

13
COUNTRY HOUSE SALE
AT CROSSRIGG HALL, CLIBURN, GUMBRIA

14
FINE WINES
ROCK & ROLL MEMORABILIA

15
ROCK & ROLL MEMORABILIA

26
HOUSE SALE
AT PALAZZO CORSINI, FLORENCE
26TH TO 28TH SEPTEMBER

28
MODERN BRITISH ART
COUNTRY HOUSE SALE
AT STOKESAY COURT, LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE
28TH SEPTEMBER TO 1ST OCTOBER

GARDEN STATUARY
AT SOTHEBY'S, BILLINGSHURST, WEST SUSSEX

30
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SOTHEBY'S
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A unique housing development in north London caters for the religious needs of the local Jewish community

Homes fit for an Orthodox way of life

From the outside, there is nothing to distinguish this of Bloch's house in a north London square from any other new three-bedroom house. Built in traditional yellow brick, the windows are framed in white stone and the small front garden is enclosed by black railings. But step inside and differences abound.

This is a house which has been built to serve the religious needs of Mrs Bloch, an Orthodox Jew, her husband, Mordechai, who is studying to become a rabbi, and their three children, Leah, nine, Sarah, six, and Chaim, seven. It forms part of a scheme of 116 flats and houses in Stoke Newington, completed earlier this year and now fully populated.

While such schemes are common in America and Israel where there are larger Orthodox Jewish communities, this is the first British housing scheme designed both to allow Jews to practise their religious customs at home, and to create a wider architectural framework in which a Jewish community can flourish.

On a guided tour of the Bloch's home, we began at the downstairs lavatory. Outside is a basin, because, Mrs Bloch explains, it is preferable to wash in water from a source which is clearly separate from the lavatory.

In the otherwise ordinary kitchen, there are two sinks divided by a glass partition, to allow for the separate preparation of milk and meat which is required by Jewish dietary laws.

In the sitting room a removable rooflight (sukkah) allows the Blochs to live under the open air during the festival of Succos in the autumn. For eight days, Orthodox Jews must live in the open, in memory of the 40 years that they spent in the wilderness after leaving Egypt.

Of course it's very luxurious to have a sukkah in our own home," Mrs Bloch says. "Normally, families like ours would build a temporary shelter outside."

The spaciousness of the house also reflects Orthodox beliefs. Although Mrs Bloch has three children, she hopes for more; other families on the estate have as many as ten. The Jewish faith sees children as a blessing from God, the more the better.

Her home has additional time-switches for lighting, circuits and automatic lifts allow residents to observe the Sabbath without having to operate electrical switches. The Institute of Science and Halacha in Jerusalem, a technical body of rabbis who are also qualified service engineers acted as advisers.

Previously, the Blochs rented a private flat which was half the size for £225 a week. Now Mrs Bloch blesses her luck. "I enjoy the house every day," she says, stressing the every. "It's so modern, everything is new, not like the rusty things I was used to in rented accommodation. If I need anything, I can go to my neighbours." Which ones, I asked?



Rabbi Twersky and Raiza, his wife, live on the ground floor in one of the new one-bedroom flats. A communal courtyard acts as a focus for outdoor celebrations



The front of the square



Place of worship: the synagogue

"Anyone," she said. But the main blessing, Mrs Bloch says, is that the development is a haven from the prejudice and anti-Semitism the family encountered in Stamford Hill. "So far, we have had no hostility at all," she says.

Before, her children were prevented from playing in the park for fear of taunts about the skull caps and sidelocks of the boys and the long-sleeved tops of the girls, which mark them out as Jewish.

Now her children can play in the square, and Mrs Bloch need not worry about their safety. In anticipation of my arrival, the beautifully behaved children had been furnished with brooms and told to sweep the square so it would look clean in the photograph.

Most of the Jewish families living in the square are from Stamford Hill and are on low incomes: they receive housing benefit for their rents, which average £80 a week for a house. They have been nominated by Hackney Council as in need of housing. About 50 per cent of the men are unemployed, others are on low incomes and some are studying to be rabbis. Orthodox teaching

encourages women to stay at home with their children.

The homes were built by the Agudas Israel Housing Association, a local group set up in 1982 to cater for Jewish housing needs. Agudas is funded by the Housing Corporation, the government quango charged with providing housing for low-income families. From its special budget for ethnic minority housing it gave 86 per cent of the £10.5 million needed to build the square. The rest came from private finance.

Alongside the family homes and flats is a sheltered housing scheme for the elderly and an old people's home, complete with a synagogue and a Passover kitchen. The synagogue is most popular with the elderly, but the young can avail themselves of its thrice-daily prayers.

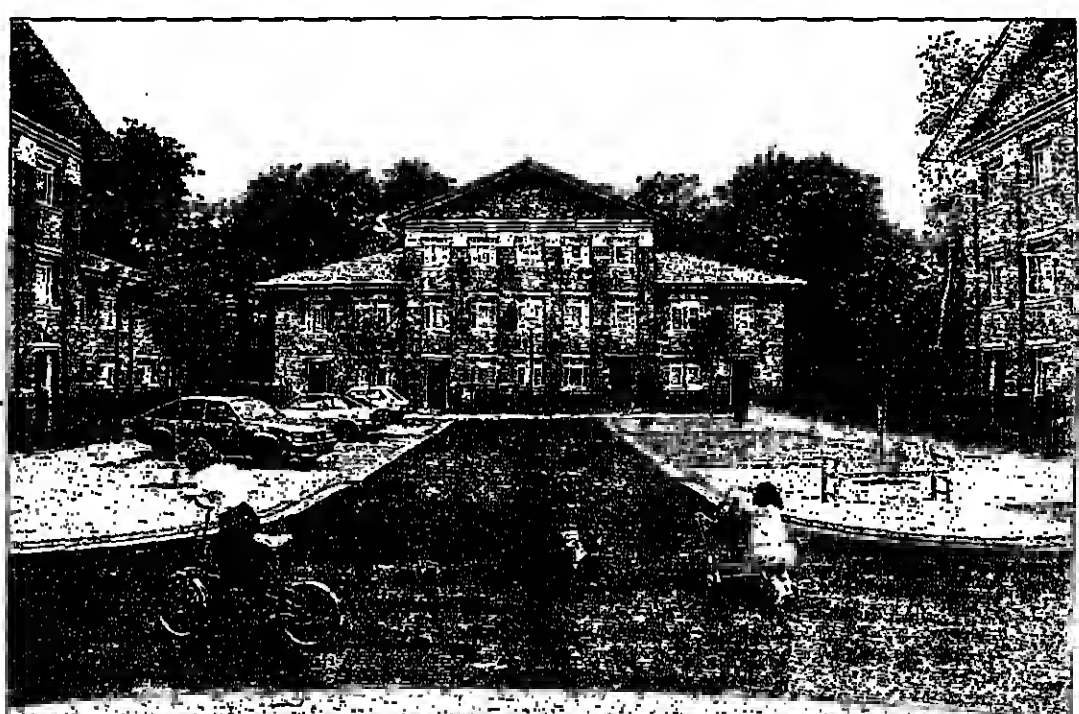
Their spiritual needs are met by daily lectures and events, nearly all with a religious theme, and the sense of community is fostered by joint celebrations for weddings, parties and get-togethers. The development has a courtyard, which provides a focus for outdoor celebrations, and a large communal dining room for functions.

The scheme is architecturally sensitive to the needs of the elderly. The flats are built along corridors lined with windows to maximise light, views and fresh air. The beds in the elderly persons' home face south and have large bay windows with inward-opening doors to allow residents to enjoy the garden air while in the rooms.

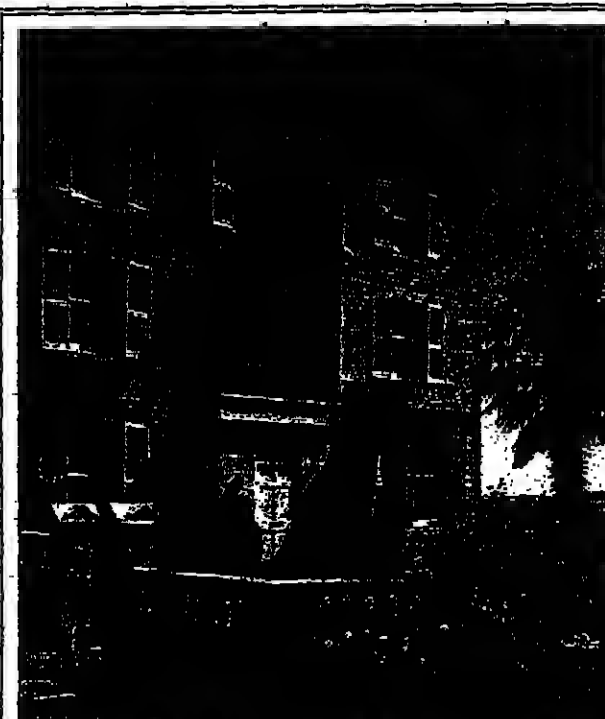
Martha Peritz escaped from Nazi Germany to Britain just before the war, and is one of the elderly residents. She loves the square. "It's so clean and bright," she says. "From the first moment I moved in here, I thought the atmosphere very pleasant. If you want company, you just open the door."

RACHEL KELLY

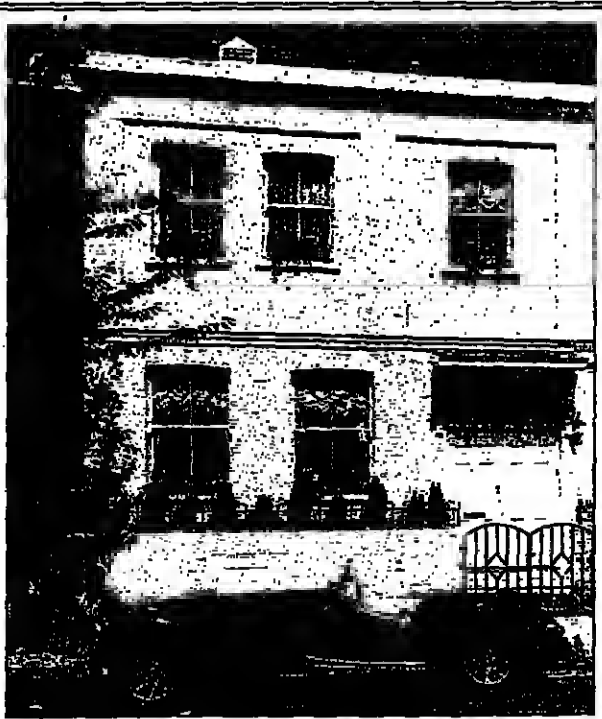
● The architects for this scheme were: Hunt, Thompson Associates, 79 Parkway, London NW1 071-485 8355. The main contractors were: Countryside in Partnership, Countryside House, The Drive, Brentwood, Essex (0277 260000) and the Agudas Israel Housing Association, 91 Stamford Hill, London N16 (081-902 3819).



The scheme comprises 116 dwellings, including sheltered housing for the elderly and a synagogue



Avon: The Villa, City View, Bath, Grade II listed period house with terraced gardens and stunning views over Bath and surrounding countryside. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, shower-room, three reception rooms, study, kitchen, utility room and conservatory. About £300,000 (Savills, 0225 444622).



London: 8, Christchurch Street, Chelsea, SW3. Modernised double-fronted house, with integral garage for two cars, in the heart of Chelsea. Three bedrooms, en suite bathroom, drawing room, fitted kitchen, gymnasium and shower room. About £295,000 for a 34-year lease (Edgerton, 071-584 7020).

about £295,000

LONDON SW3
8 Christchurch St
Chelsea
£295,000

AVON
The Villa, City View, Bath
£300,000

DEVON
The White House, Harford, near Sidmouth
£290,000



Devon: The White House, Harford, Near Sidmouth. Georgian house situated in the centre of a small village in the lower reaches of the Otter Valley, around four miles from the South Devon coast. The house is set in just under an acre of gardens, with former coach house (now garage) and swimming pool with changing rooms. Six bedrooms, three bathrooms (one en suite), four reception rooms, games room, kitchen, and two cloakrooms. About £290,000 (Strutt & Parker, 0392 215631).

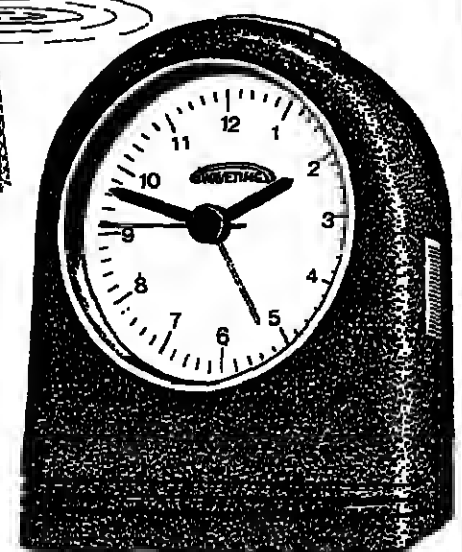
CHERYL TAYLOR

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Lost in a Scotch myth

Giles Gordon joins the centenary celebrations of the master craftsman, Robert Louis Stevenson

EVERY country, in a sense, gets the author it deserves.

It is somehow appropriate that England, with the Bard, has one about whom next to nothing is known: discretion and reticence raised to the power of genius. Ireland has Mark Twain (although Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* may be a more considerable book than anything by twinking Twain).

Scotland, undoubtedly, has Robert Louis Stevenson, the writer and the myth, the myth — if you like — as writer. It also has those contemporaries, James Hogg and Walter Scott, both undoubtedly more fundamental writers than RLS; but Stevenson, from Leerie to cerebral haemorrhage, is the very model of the romantic, even Romantic, writer.

This year's Edinburgh Festival peters out today. A number of its best events have been devoted to celebrating RLS, born (in 1850) and reared in the city's New Town. He died, a 44-year-old strapping, far from the Edinburgh he could never exorcise, on December 3, 1894, in Valima, Samoa.

The centenary celebrations of the man who wrote *A Child's Garden of Verses*, *Treasure Island*, *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886; Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, clearly much influenced by it, seeped out in 1896) and *Weir of Hermiston* continue around the world, culminating in the opening of Valima on December 4 to the public: "A ceremony consisting of speeches, lectures, ribbon-cutting and Samoan songs and dances will take place at the site. In Apla a parade will be held with a firework display in the evening and scheduled hikes to the grave on Mt Vaea will be organised and conducted by native Samoans." Cor blimey. This is some writer.

More mundanely, the exhibition at the City Art Centre, Market Street, Edinburgh (until October 1), "Jekyll or Hyde?", is rather splendid, crammed with dramatic goodies: tableaux, voices over, recitations, visual effects. Among the hardware is the birth certificate, and the copy of Borrow's *The Bible in Spain* which he took with him to the Cevennes when he went travelling with that donkey.

At the National Library of Scotland (until October 30) is a drier exhibition ("Pictures of the Mind"), which I'd have enjoyed more if a woman

hadn't suddenly asked me how I was enjoying the exhibition. It turned out that she was soliciting customers for some musical (the mind boggles) about RLS which either she'd written or was performing in.

A third exhibition, "Treasure Islands", open until January, has been devised by Jenni Daiches at the Royal Scottish Museum. It links RLS with islands of divers sorts — from those of the childhood mind to the Pacific islands he explored in his dying years.

Yale University Press has published the first two volumes (six to come) of Stevenson's correspondence, and Mainstream, with a little help from the Scottish Arts Council, has issued a handsome edition of the complete short stories edited by Ian Bell. Peter Ackroyd reviewed both these books in these pages recently.

Edinburgh University Press is publishing *The Collected Works* (pompously advertised as "Stevenson Reclaimed: A new edition for a modern age"). It takes a century to bring the pedants snugly out of the academic woodwork.

One of the pleasures of the National Library's exhibition is the blow-ups of illustrations to editions of the great man's books (and Canongate has published *Pictures of the Mind*, £14.95, a large-format paperback reproducing numerous illustrations from different editions; Stevenson is eminently illustrative).

RLS is one of the great craftsmen of literature. His prose is as pellucid as Orwell's (or Orwell's as Stevenson's). It is a cliché that Jekyll and Hyde represent the two faces of the Scottish character, but in all Stevenson's stirring tales the schizophrenia of the Scots character is displayed and laid bare. As Allan Massie has pointed out: "In the relations between David Balfour and Alan Breck (in *Kidnapped*) Stevenson gives a new turn to the opposition between Knox and Mary, Covenanters and Cavalier, Rationalist and Romantic."

Likewise in *The Master of Ballantrae*, *Weir of Hermiston* and, perhaps above all, in that most exciting of children's stories, *Treasure Island*. Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver are, again, but different facets of the Scottish character, the Enlightenment and the Diaspora, the prophet unappreciated in his own country.

As I said, every country gets the author it deserves.

The racing-thriller writer is still in a class of his own, says Marcel Berlins, but his latest novel is not his best



Dick Francis: his own genre

Saddle-weary of the Francis format

THERE is no point in reviewing Dick Francis's novels by applying the usual critical criteria. He has created his own genre, invented a formula, and has followed it through 33 books in as many years, easily disposing of any rivals who dared to compete with him on his terrain.

It is no good pointing out flaws of style, character or plot: they are irrelevant to Francis's fanatical fans. Nor is any purpose served by comparing him — whether advantageously or not — with practitioners in other fields of thriller/adventure/crime writing. A "Dick Francis" (the term has become generic) is a self-contained concept which followed no rules but its own.

■ WILD HORSES
By Dick Francis
Michael Joseph, £14.99

How, then, does one meaningfully assess *Wild Horses*? Only by comparing it to his other, especially his more recent, works. On that test, it has to be said that *Wild Horses* is not one of his better books, which comes as a particular disappointment after the excellence of last year's offering, *Decider*.

It starts promisingly. A confused dying old man, a blacksmith turned journalist, mistakenly believes our hero, film director Thomas Lyon, to be a priest, and confesses vaguely to a murder he says he committed long

ago. He dies without elaborating, leaving Lyon his book collection, which the nasties, for motives not yet apparent, are prepared to kill to obtain.

At the same time, Lyon is having trouble with his American-financed film, an attempt, dressed up as fiction, to solve the mystery of a young woman's hanging a quarter-century before, among Newmarket's racing fraternity. Some of the participants, contrary to Lyon's intent, would prefer the truth not to emerge and are prepared to be physical in stopping Lyon reaching it.

The menu is familiar Francis: the emotionally bruised protagonist rummages through long-buried

secrets and current violence to the backdrop of galloping horses and the dodgy society surrounding them. *Wild Horses*, though, is threadbare on equine matters, and not interesting enough on the human front. There is too much flimflam and too little racing. Lyon is a lacklustre character, and even the villains seem subdued.

I once made the mistake of suggesting that Francis was showing signs of idea fatigue. He responded by writing a cracker the following year. I am not now saying that he is written out; but if Francis enthusiasts feel they ought to take a brief holiday from him, *Wild Horses* is the one to miss.

White lies and a pink lady

"WHAT are WE going to do about YOUR paragraphs?"

Dame Barbara's voice sounded insistent and mildly alarming. This was the first of many such telephone calls.

"Your paragraphs," she repeated. "What are we going to do with them?"

I was rather nonplussed by this. I had never previously had any problems about my paragraphs. Besides I felt they were my business, not the Dame's.

"They're far too long," she told me, in her characteristically unequivocal manner. "Dear Lord Beaverbrook" had always told her that a paragraph should never be more than three lines long. He had warned her too about the length of sentences and the length of words. Both should be kept as short as possible. Dame Barbara had been reading a previous book of mine and was appalled at the paragraphs. Nobody could possibly get to the end of them.

I am afraid that I took the coward's way out and merely mumbled. Over the ensuing months I found that this was a useful option. For all her many virtues the Dame is not one of the world's great listeners. It is true that there were moments, as we sat on the sofa in her dainty-fuchsia drawing room at Camfield Place, when she drew breath and allowed me to pop a question. An "Um" or "Er" was all that was required to set her off again.

These sessions usually took place in the afternoon. They were not really interviews in the accepted sense because the questions, even when I was able to complete them, acted as little more than stimuli. Once, for example, I reported

Tim Heald on the fun and frustration of writing Barbara Cartland's biography



Young Barbara Cartland

ed that a former chairman of the Romantic Novelists' Association was outraged because, in real life, all Dame Barbara's heroes would have had the clap and, still worse, would have passed it on to their virgin brides the second after the final page when they whisked them off into the nuptial bed.

I wanted to know the Dame's answer to this, but what I got was a tirade on the subject of AIDS. In vain did I try to suggest that AIDS was unknown in the historical period about which Dame Barbara habitually writes. In this sense she was both

maddening and marvellous. Whenever I spoke to her she always gave terrific value, talking nineteen to the dozen about everything from the sex appeal of Lord Mountbatten to the iniquities of working motherhood, from reincarnation to the Church of England's policies on tombstones. It was heady stuff.

The Dame is so old now that there are very few corroborative witnesses to her life. This means that she and her writings are the single most illuminating source. Luckily she spoke for the most part with disarming frankness. However, I was very conscious that I was an outsider looking in on her life. I might paint the odd wart. She warned me that if I wrote anything disagreeable she would come back and haunt me after she was dead.

Eventually, in March this year, I wrapped my finished manuscript in pink paper and presented it to her before a celebratory lunch at Camfield Place. The next few days passed in a fever of apprehension, and then the letter from Hertfordshire arrived. I opened it with trembling hands.

"My Dear Tim," she wrote. "I think you have been absolutely fantastic to have put so much time, trouble and research into writing about me... I have only done as you have told me to do and adjusted things which were wrong or I thought would give unhappiness to the many people who write to me."

I read on to the final "Love Barbara" with growing surprise. Not once did she raise the matter of my paragraphs.

● A Life of Love is published by Sinclair-Stevenson (£15.99)



Falconer with Hawking Dogs by Richard Ansdell, from *A History of English Country Sports* by Michael Billet (Robert Hale, £17.99). The book charts 1000 years of country sports in England, and highlights the importance of falconry before the sporting gun was developed

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How to play the Western game

FEW writers understand Germany, Poland and Central Europe as well as Tom Garton Ash: as a consequence, few writers understand as well as he does the postwar (and post-Cold War) shape of Europe, and Germany's place within it. Early on in this sensitive and magisterial study, first published last year and now

reissued in paperback, Garton Ash quotes Professor Michael Stürmer: "The only opportunity left to Germany after 1945 was to play the Western game, to be the most European nation among the Europeans, and to translate Germany's geo-strategic position into political negotiating power." This is as true now as it was in the

■ IN EUROPE'S NAME
By Timothy Garton Ash
Vintage, £9.99

days of Konrad Adenauer, or of Willy Brandt's Ostpolitik. The issue is whether Ostpolitik still has resonance in the 1990s, given that the countries of the former eastern bloc now want to be part of the

West. "Perhaps the greatest single flaw of the Maastricht Treaty was that it had nothing to say about the rest of Europe knocking at Europe's doors," Garton Ash writes.

He is right to identify the key European question of our time: whether a reunified Germany can use its undoubted power "peacefully and con-

structively", not least by helping the fragile democracies of central Europe to flourish. The other half of the equation is whether Russia can also bring stability to Europe through "Vergangenheitsbewältigung", or coming to terms with the past.

RICHARD OWEN

Derwent May reviews the critics

5.5 Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet newspapers

4.5 Bardot bare: Two books have just appeared about Brigitte Bardot, 60 this month. Sean French's *Bardot* (Pavilion £19.99) was, said Paul Johnson in *The Sunday Telegraph*, "a splendid picture-book illuminated with a shrewd and sensitive text". He observed that "Bardot lingers on as a phenomenon where countless better movie actresses and even prettier ones are forgotten", and he decided that this was because of her "strong character": she was "like a man on the loose, picking and discarding her partners as she pleased." He was less keen on her new role as "a far from endearing animal rights campaigner who looks every second of her age, and even more", and who picks up animals "in roughly the same fashion" as she picked up men.

Christopher Hudson in *The Daily Mail* wrote that "Bardot seemed happiest without clothes", and also seemed to "herald a new age of sexual freedom", but that "in the

course of advertising individual freedom she lost her own" and was "hunted" by the media "like an animal". He noted that French avoided this "uncomfortable, rather sad story" by focusing on the myth of Bardot. Jane Dunn in *The Observer* said "French shows her caught in a time bubble, an eternal adolescent" with "tousled hair, sooty-rimmed eyes and pout", while George Melly in *The Daily Telegraph* thought that French was "as naive" but "over-zealous to establish his intellectual credentials". Col cms: 69

3.5 Bardot bare: The other book is a biography, *Bardot: Two Lives* by Jeffrey Robinson, who managed to interview the reclusive (Simon & Schuster, £15.99). Paul Johnson concluded that "Bardot only lacks a Balzac to be sure of immortality", but George Melly did not think she had found one in Robinson: "his prose-style is a real pain" and though "he reports her rages, self-pity, irresponsibility... it is always as though it is somehow not her fault". Jane Dunn thought that though the book contained "a wealth of anecdote", its author had opted for "the Hello! school of biography". Col cms: 58

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK			
		£	Last week
1	DEBT OF HONOUR Tom Clancy (HarperCollins)	£16.99	1 4
2	DISCOWORLD COMPANION Terry Pratchett (Gollancz)	£14.99	2 3
3	TWELVE RED HERRINGS Jeffrey Archer (HarperCollins)	£10.99	3 8
4	MAGIC EYE I: A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT THE WORLD (Michael Joseph)	£10.99	4 17
5	NOTHING LASTS FOR EVER Sidney Sheldon (HarperCollins)	£14.99	0 1
6	FLOYD ON ITALY Keith Floyd (BBC)	£14.99	6 5
7	MAGIC EYE II: NOW YOU SEE IT (Michael Joseph)	£10.99	5 18
8	FAITHFUL: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY Marianne Faithfull (Michael Joseph)	£15.99	0 1
9	EMINENT CHURCHILLIANS Andrew Roberts (Weidenfeld & Nicolson)	£20.00	0 19
10	DELIA SMITH'S SUMMER COLLECTION Delia Smith (BBC)	£14.99	8 19
PAPERBACK			
		£	Last week
1	BLUE AFTERNOON William Boyd (Penguin)	£5.99	1 3
2	BIRDSONG Sebastian Faulks (Vintage)	£5.99	4 8
3	A SPANISH LOVER Joanna Trollope (Black Swan)	£5.99	2 8
4	PADDY CLARKE HA HA HA Roddy Doyle (Mandarin)	£5.99	3 13
5	CRUEL AND UNUSUAL Patricia Cornwell (Warner)	£4.99	5 11
6	THE CLIENT John Grisham (Arrow)	£5.99	6 13
7	FOETAL ATTRACTION Kathy Lette (Pleasure)	£5.99	7 11
8	SHIPPING NEWS Annie Proulx (Fourth Estate)	£5.99	9 4
9	VANISHED Danielle Steel (Corgi)	£4.99	0 1
10	WITHOUT REMORSE Tom Clancy (Warner)	£5.99	8 10
11	WILD SWANS Jung Chang (Flamingo)	£7.99	10 20
12	THE HOUSE OF DOCTOR DEE Peter Ackroyd (Penguin)	£5.99	14 4
13	TAKEN ON TRUST Terry Waite (Coronet)	£5.99	0 1
14	JEDI ACADEMY SERIES VOL 2: DARK APPRENTICE Kevin J. Anderson (Bantam)	£3.99	0 1
15	ADRIAN MOLE: THE WILDERNESS YEARS Sue Townsend (Mandarin)	£4.99	12 8
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BOOKS

15

Who's who in the Bombay big top?

Erica Wagner on an epic quest for identity disguised as a simple murder mystery

A SON OF THE CIRCUS
By John Irving
Bloomsbury, £15.99

I DID actually use this book as a doorstop. I stubbed my toe on it once; I swore and jumped up and down. This is a big book.

John Irving is never content with giving us something as meagre as a novel. There simply wouldn't be room enough for him. Almost all of his books could be prefaced "The world according to": he wants us to know the whole story, everything, not just the thin slice of the world usually known as fiction.

A Son of the Circus is no exception. It lets us into the world of Dr Farrokh Daruwalla, a man called to question where he should call "home". He is a Parsi, born in Bombay but schooled in Vienna, who has lived almost all of his adult life in Toronto with his Austrian wife. Periodically he returns to the city of his birth to practise orthopaedic surgery at the Hospital for Crippled Children and to continue researching his pet project, an attempt to discover whether achondroplastic dwarfism carries a genetic marker. This research gives Daruwalla an excuse to become involved with the Indian circuses he

so loves — where many of India's achondroplastic dwarfs are to be found — and to find, in the lives of the circus entertainers, inspiration for his secret life as a screenwriter. For Daruwalla, unknown to almost all, is also the creator of the Inspector Dhar films, murder-mystery vehicles which star his beloved adopted son and are one of Bollywood's most successful ventures.

Inspector Dhar is something like an Indian cross between Morse and Bond, but the heart of this book is a

grisly series of murders which lie beyond his fictional powers. The murders began in Goa in 1969 near a hotel where Daruwalla and his wife were staying. Without wishing to, Daruwalla became involved then, and 20 years later he will become involved again, and once again his life will change.

This is a complex novel, far more than the fairly simple mystery its dust jacket claims it is. In the first place there is never really a mystery, at least as far as the identity of the

killer is concerned. The mystery in this novel is the mystery of identity. Daruwalla is lost: not an Indian, not a Canadian; a doctor and a screenwriter, Inspector Dhar, or John D as the Daruwallas know him, is an enigma to everyone, himself included: an Indian actor who is not even Indian, universally loathed but basically kind, and possessed of a twin whose existence is unknown to him until his 39th year.

The novel contains few absolutely satisfying conclusions, but that, surely, is the point. The book is full of Irving's wild excesses — transsexual serial killers, tragic knife throwers, Mr Garg the Acid Man — but it is permeated by the quiet sensibility of Farrokh Daruwalla. Daruwalla's quest for the truth of himself is what sustains this book over its 600 pages.

A writer with the courage to follow this difficult journey while also exploring issues of poverty, racism and disease in a novel so full of humour is a writer to be treasured. And who could fail to admire John Irving for setting his vast story almost entirely in India, a country to which he freely admits he has barely been? Just one more sign, if we needed one, of his uncontainable imagination.



John Irving: the whole story



Robert Hughes: offending the politically correct

THE CULTURE OF COMPLAINT: The Praying of America
By Robert Hughes
Farrar, £8.99

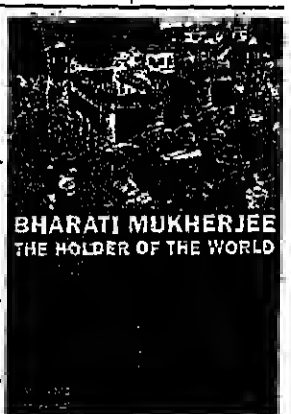
In three impassioned essays, the art critic of Time magazine turns his lucid critical gaze on contemporary American society, and delivers a stinging rebuke. Cultural sensitivity has reached such a stage, he argues, that the urge not to blame or offend has hamstringing a whole generation.

Brought up by ageing baby-boomers nostalgically politicising every aspect of culture and language, this generation has been taught that elitism is wrong, quality is a paternalistic fiction and mediocrity is heroic. As willing victims of their age, these Americans are now obsessed

with a "culture of complaint", where therapy is the common currency, and where cultural output is judged in political, not aesthetic terms.

In seeking the causes of this surrender of responsibility for the self, Hughes fingers the legacy of Puritanism among other factors, and shows its effect in political correctness, post-modern art, and even in "loose" such as the arch-feminist Andrea Dworkin. He writes with the muscular, aphoristic prose and the critical independence that made his collection of art criticism, *Nothing If Not Critical* so enjoyable, and calls for an honest acceptance of mankind's multicultural diversity, all with humour, power and eloquence.THE HOLDER OF THE WORLD
By Bharati Mukherjee
Virago, £6.99

Drawing on her own experience as an Indian living in America, Mukherjee explores the phenomenon of migration and the metamorphoses implicit in that. Asset-hunter Beigh Masters is commissioned to find a lost diamond, the Emperor's Tear. While researching its history, she stumbles on the strange story of Hannah Easton, a 17th-century New England Puritan who moved to India and became the lover of a prince, by whom she had a child. But something caused her to flee to America, and it is only by staving this disturbing mystery that Beigh is able to unlock the secret of the Emperor's Tear.

BHARATI MUKHERJEE
THE HOLDER OF THE WORLDNEITHER SHAKEN NOR STIRRED
By Sean Connery
Warner Books, £5.99

Connery started the hard way in Edinburgh, first as a milkman, then footballer (the latter "tried out at Old Trafford), navy (picking up a couple of tatty tattoos) and weight-lifter, before finally stumbling into Bond, his saviour and yepness. Connery emerges as an attractive character from this modest and efficient life and times: witty, outspoken, hilariously parsimonious, charmingly managamous (not one woman, admittedly,

but one at a time) and by the end it's three cheers for his now renaissance career.

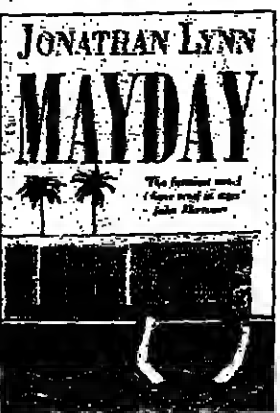
SEX WITH STRANGERS
By Geoffrey Rees
Penguin, £5.99

"Love without lust: lust without love" is the motto adopted by three homosexuals who meet at college in Chicago. Pursuing this philosophy of detachment, young Thomas conducts a gratifyingly animal affair with a train conductor while forging his uneasy triangular friendship. Unsurprisingly, his philosophy begins to fail him. Rees achieves passages of rare lyrical intensity, painting the beloved American cityscape with a feverish admiration, and putting young Thomas through a mesmerising series of sexual encounters. But his virtuosity could, and should, support a more complex theme.

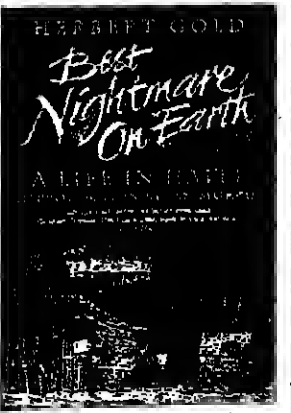
A WALK TO THE WESTERN ISLES

By Frank Delaney HarperCollins, £7.99

In 1773, Samuel Johnson and his biographer friend James Boswell made their famous tour of Scotland, from Edinburgh westward to the Inner Hebrides. Writer and broadcaster Frank Delaney follows in their footsteps, on a private quest into the personality and life of this legendary figure. The result is only an enthusiast's companion volume to Johnson's and Boswell's own accounts, but it offers appetising glimpses of the real Dr Johnson — showing off in conversation, enduring the rigours of 18th-century travel and enjoying hospitality from the full range of Highland eccentrics. Now read the originals.

MAYDAY
By Jonathan Lynn
Penguin, £4.99

Archly self-referential, this amusing debut from the co-writer of Yes, Minister is about an English hack writer adrift in a world of moral decay. Mayday, who has moved to Los Angeles, is desperate to break into movies, but he is suffering from chronic writer's block. Then he meets Joanna who has been hired to nobble a member of the jury at the trial of a leading evangelist. For a fee she agrees to keep him informed of her activities, thus providing him with a story, as well as giving Lynn the opportunity to satirise cultists, evangelists and other fanatics.

BEST NIGHTMARE ON EARTH
By Herbert Gold
Flamingo, £6.99

As Clinton's army prepares to swamp the tiny eccentric paradise of Haiti there is no timelier moment to read Gold's entrancing memoir of his beloved land: its "mysticism of suffering" under the depredations of President Francois Duvalier ("Our Doc Who Art in the National Palace"), the dark and sweaty backcloth of voodoo and the gods of danger and love, the crazy post-colonial permutations of racial discrimination. Above all, the vitality and largesse of the people shine forth to shame the comfortable neuroses of the West.

Contributors: Alexander Ross, Jason Cowley, Jake Michie, Alison Burns

Tim Waterstone, founder of the bookshop chain, tells how he made the transition to novelist

FOR a long time I had been meaning to write a novel. I'd written an increasing number of articles, and a fair amount of fiction which I'd tucked away in a drawer. But I'd fumbled the idea of a novel, scared to stick my head above the trenches; and the more you don't do it, the more you fear it.

Also, I'd never really had time, which is a feeble excuse, but after selling Waterstone's I suddenly did have time.

It was a very happy period in my life. I'd remarried for the umpteenth time, and one day last year we were in the States, and I said to Rosie, my new wife: "I'm going to start tomorrow morning."

Our apartment in New York has a dark, dingy, back room, with hardly any view, and I locked myself away there, and wrote about 16,000 words in longhand. I couldn't get Sam right, the main character; he was too heavy, too portentous. So I ripped it all up and started over again, and I then wrote and wrote.

We went to the West Indies for three months. I used to get up at six in the morning and write for three hours. I found I could do 2,000 words a day — I need to give myself a daily word target, which may sound an overly mechanistic way of

doing things, but if I give myself a goal, I can just fight through until I get there.

I love getting up very early in the morning, it's my favourite time to write, but at home children seemed to be around all the time — I have eight — and young grandchildren too, who would come in and disturb me, while I tried not to show any irritation.

On one level this is a story of how a man builds a business and loses it. Another level is a story about love, filial and sexual and romantic love. It's also about human relationships and how they interplay with each other, like Sam's relationship with his daughter, and his separated wife. But above all, it's about love, although that makes it sound very Barbara Cartland, which it isn't.

There is a gay love story which runs parallel to the heterosexual love story, and because that is not my world, I was frightened of not being able to carry it off; but I was surprised and very pleased. I actually think the gay marriage works awfully well.

To counterbalance that piece of boasting, I confess there is one character I felt I never quite got right, who is Sam's ex-wife's new husband. I wanted to make him weak,



Tim Waterstone: "There will be some good reviews, and some not so good" (see right)

but attractive, and I am not sure I did.

I found structuring the book difficult, and I did a tremendous amount of work moving things around, rewriting a chapter here, bringing in a new chapter there.

I wouldn't say *Lilley & Chase* is specifically autobiographical, it uses a whole aggregate of experiences and relationships. But there is one particular chapter, a third of the way through the book, that I added long after it had been written. It is a description of a

father going to tell his daughter that he is divorcing the child's mother. I think it made the whole novel much stronger, and that was based on a deeply unpleasant but true experience.

It requires a certain act of courage to lay your emotions out, you are saying that is what it feels like, sneer at it, and unburdening myself has made me feel quite vulnerable. There will be some good reviews, and some not so good reviews, and I will read them all. I think it is quite a good

novel, and I hope that other people think so too — I am nervous but optimistic. I want the book to sell, I want it to be a success, and to get a place on the bestseller list. But whatever happens, even if I am ridiculed, I am going to write more books.

I would like to write a novel a year for 15 years. I read the other day that Sir Walter Scott wrote 30 novels in the last 18 years of his life... and you know what whoppers they are.

Interview by Danny Danziger

Not a bad review

LILLEY & CHASE
By Tim Waterstone
Headline, £15.99

THIS is a surprisingly conventional novel from the man who, as the founder and chief executive of the Waterstone chain, believed in promoting serious, often experimental fiction.

Maybe by his writing Tim Waterstone reveals his true colours. *Lilley & Chase* is much more Anthony Powell than Julian Barnes, Vikram Seth than Martin Amis.Waterstone has chosen for at least part of his fictional debut a backdrop he knows well — books. *Lilley & Chase* is a publishing house. But other worlds impinge, not least the church and, in particular, an elderly homosexual priest, whose relationship with the Church of England leads Tim Waterstone, into some thought-provoking asides.

Indeed, Waterstone's main strength in his writing is in his characters. Less satisfying is how Waterstone intertwines the priest, the publishing folk and more minor characters. I felt he could have done with some stern advice on construction: repetitions of style and too much history of the characters dropped in rather than seamlessly integrated.

But *Lilley & Chase* did make me turn the page. If fiction is about telling a story, Tim Waterstone demonstrates he has what it takes.

ION TREWIN

Thrills that fall flat

CRIMEWATCH UK
By Liz Mills
Penguin, £4.99CRIME may not pay, but it does wonders for the audience ratings. A decade after it started, BBC's *CrimeWatch UK* still averages 11 million viewers. The show's presenter, Nick Ross, in a foreword to this collection of cases solved with the programme's help, attributes the fascination to the chance *CrimeWatch* offers for us all to "do something" about crime. In reality the appeal, as Ross admits, lies in the vicarious thrill of a series which combines "the excitement of cops 'n' robbers with the grittiness of real life".

None of the excitement and little of the grit survives translation into print. The six cases retold here by Liz Mills, the series producer, have titles which might have come from fiction — "Double Identity", "The Red Connection", "A Murderer's Game". But the narratives themselves stay bogged down in fact.

Mills, who attempts a cosy immediacy rarely seen since the demise of the broadsheet *Sunday Express* ("Detective Inspector Christopher Allen was having lunch with a colleague in Woolwich when his pager sounded; it was 12.00pm") seems crucially unable to distinguish relevant from irrelevant detail. Her policemen, good cops to a man, are ciphers. Her criminals remain shadowy figures, too, but perhaps this is less surprising — these are characters and landscapes at which even a novelist might balk.

IAN BRUNSKILL

Women unzipped

FEAR OF FIFTY
By Erica Jong
Chatto and Windus, £16STRAIGHT SEX — THE POLITICS OF PLEASURE
By Lynne Segal
Virago, £8.99

ERICA Jong's ramshackle autobiography is a self-indulgent ramble, a plea for sympathy for the rich and famous neurotic writers of New York who are So Misunderstood, despite writing about themselves so much. Her jet-set life, her annual palazzo with fig tree and perfect sex in Venice, dining at the Brasserie Lipp with the stars, but where, oh where is true happiness?

It's found at the moment with husband number four, but after all she tells us of her first 50 years, who can suppress a wry thought about the finality of that?

So what makes a book that is so easy to mock such a good read? The answer, as in all her books, is sex. She writes it, dreams it, seeks it, strokes it, and records her feelings with a gusto to set the tissue tingling. She gets it right about the line between sex and sexual fantasy, and the inextricability of lust and love. It was she, after all, who in her book *Fear of Flying* did more for women's sense of possibility than a pile of feminist tracts. She celebrated female desire for men. That challenging phrase, the zipless fuck, which she now bemoans as her perpetual epitaph, came to symbolise liberated women's capacity to lust.

She is a compulsive writer. The words burst out of her: the sharpness of her epigrams spurt across the page (you'll note how her metaphors catch on). She is plainly wild, impossible, unreasonable, pursued by dark things, yet brings shafts of revelation and brightness into dark places.



Erica Jong: her sharp epigrams spurt across the page

Erica Jong lives very dangerously. She is no model, yet offers an infinite variety of the ways in which being with men, marrying men, sex with men is so maddeningly difficult. No prescriptions for the lovelorn or the loveless here, only razor-like observation.

Lynne Segal is PC about sex, and for all her book's come-on title and sexy cover, there's less bodily sex in it, as you might expect from a Professor of Gender Studies. Deeply imbued with the literature of her subject, she appears to be

addressing a very small group of women, if they ever existed, who lived and believed the precepts of the odd feminist writers.

She seeks to resurrect penetrative sex as an OK female desire (cue for an Erica Jong epigram there). But ordinary women are entitled to ask when did it ever go out of fashion? She doesn't talk about men, but other "significant persons", presumably not to offend the lesbian lobby.

Professor Segal is snooty about "meretricious" Ms Jong, sniffs at her fame and fortune, and her promotion by "male moguls". Yet the two women have something in common, for ploughing through this in-grown academic analysis of other feminist writers is a collection of truths about sex and women's desire. For she is addressing the main, the only problem for women and for feminism, even if she tiptoes where Erica Jong plunges. There it is again. Jongism is catching.

POLLY TOYNBEE

Sexy sex, horrid horror

JIGSAW
By Campbell Armstrong
Doubleday, £14.99

I AM assuming it is just fortuitous that the capture of the alleged terrorist Carlos the Jackal should coincide so neatly with the publication of Campbell Armstrong's new novel, centred on the murderously voracious female killer called Carlotta.

Jigsaw is hailed by the publishers as the long-awaited sequel to *Jig*, Armstrong's first book, which launched him on to the global best-seller lists. This is to do the new book an injustice. Put simply, despite the hype *Jig* was a lousy book — a run-of-the-mill potboiler.

The most important development is that Armstrong has learnt to write. His hero the entertainingly named Frank Pagan, has become a rounded character infused with wasted melancholy. His villainess is an inspired incarnation of sensual evil.

Compared with the wooden action in *Jig*, Armstrong has created a thriller where the sex is sexy, the horror horrific, and the plot is, as it should be, the skeleton for a well fleshed-out piece of story-telling.

Like John Le Carré, Armstrong has decided that in the new world order the real villains are the arms dealers, and the cardinal sin is cynicism. The fringes of his world — the borders to the jigsaw — are peopled with the floosam of the bad old days. Disgruntled former Stasi generals rub shoulders at an unsafe distance with South African extremists. Bosnian partisans and New York gangsters. Armstrong gives us cameo

ciphers acting the roles of Boris Yeltsin and Czech president Vaclav Havel.

The location shots work, from grubby offices in London's Golden Square to the back streets of Lyons and the icy magnificence of Venice in winter. But it is on the human level, from the pathetic to the psychopathic, that this book really holds the attention. Armstrong has discovered a way with words that raises him above the routine level of the marketplace.

So turn the publicity machine on its head: if you hated *Jig*, buy *Jigsaw*.

PETER MILLAR

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MOTOTORING

New life is finally stirring at the elite end of the market. Kevin Eason on how performance car makers survived hard times

Sports cars back from the brink

THERE was a time when City whizz-kids were always seen in a Porsche, and the speculators were happy to pay hundreds of thousands more than the list price for a Ferrari.

Aston Martins fetched huge prices at auctions. The value of new cars of their class doubled as they left the factory gates.

When the bubble burst, it went with a bang and the shock waves were felt throughout the exotic sports car industry. Porsche, Ferrari and Aston Martin were all forced to peer over the brink of extinction. For just as the speculators and rich buyers were falling by the wayside, environmentalists were ganging up on a breed of cars not exactly designed with frugality in mind.

Yet all three companies have survived and are about to launch a bevy of new models, with more confidence than ever.

What happened? Realism dawned for one thing, and all three companies have rediscovered their true buyers instead of appealing to the fickle market of easy-money and speculation.

Ferrari, for example, will sell only about 200 cars in the UK this year, stabilising after two grim years and the madness of the late 1980s. Sales peaked in 1989 at 327 — not enough to feed the craze among speculators for high-price, high-performance cars.

Ferrari is exchanging hands at twice their list price to speculators who promptly locked them away and waited for their investment to accumulate. It was almost the worst thing to happen to Ferrari, according to Stuart Robinson, the managing director of Ferrari UK.



A class of its own: the classic lines of the Ferrari 348 GTC

"The excesses of speculators meant that real Ferrari buyers could not get their cars," Mr Robinson says. "They were deprived of them by the silly prices that were being demanded. The worst of it was that cars were bought but never used by people who weren't even Ferrari enthusiasts."

MARANELLO, Ferrari's manufacturing headquarters, made 4,487 cars in 1991, cranking up the assembly lines to keep pace with demand. Now production in the immediate future will be held at about 3,000 cars a year, keeping supply just short of demand to keep prices, and second-hand values buoyant. Used cars appreciated by about three to five per cent in Britain last year.

The 456GT, a top-of-the-range four-seater costing £146,000, is the latest model to arrive in Britain, 'attracting rave reviews. The range starts with the Mondial, a V8-powered 2 plus 2 (two regular seats at the front, two tiny ones in the back), a snip at £67,151, and includes the mighty 512TR for £131,000, whose 5-litre, 12-cylinder engine is capable of 195mph.

Porsche probably suffered more than any other car company,

because its models became synonymous with the concept of the Yuppie and City speculator. In 1987, the company sold 3,700 cars in the UK; by 1992, that number had fallen to just 945. Worldwide, sales halved over the same period to about 16,000.

Yet consistent buyers of Porsches are not whizz-kids in their twenties but solid businessmen or entrepreneurs who have built their own businesses and want to reward themselves.

Kevin Gaskell, the managing director of Porsche GB, says: "Our cars are bought by people who know a good investment but want a car they can enjoy owning and driving. It is not something for investment only or a passing passion."

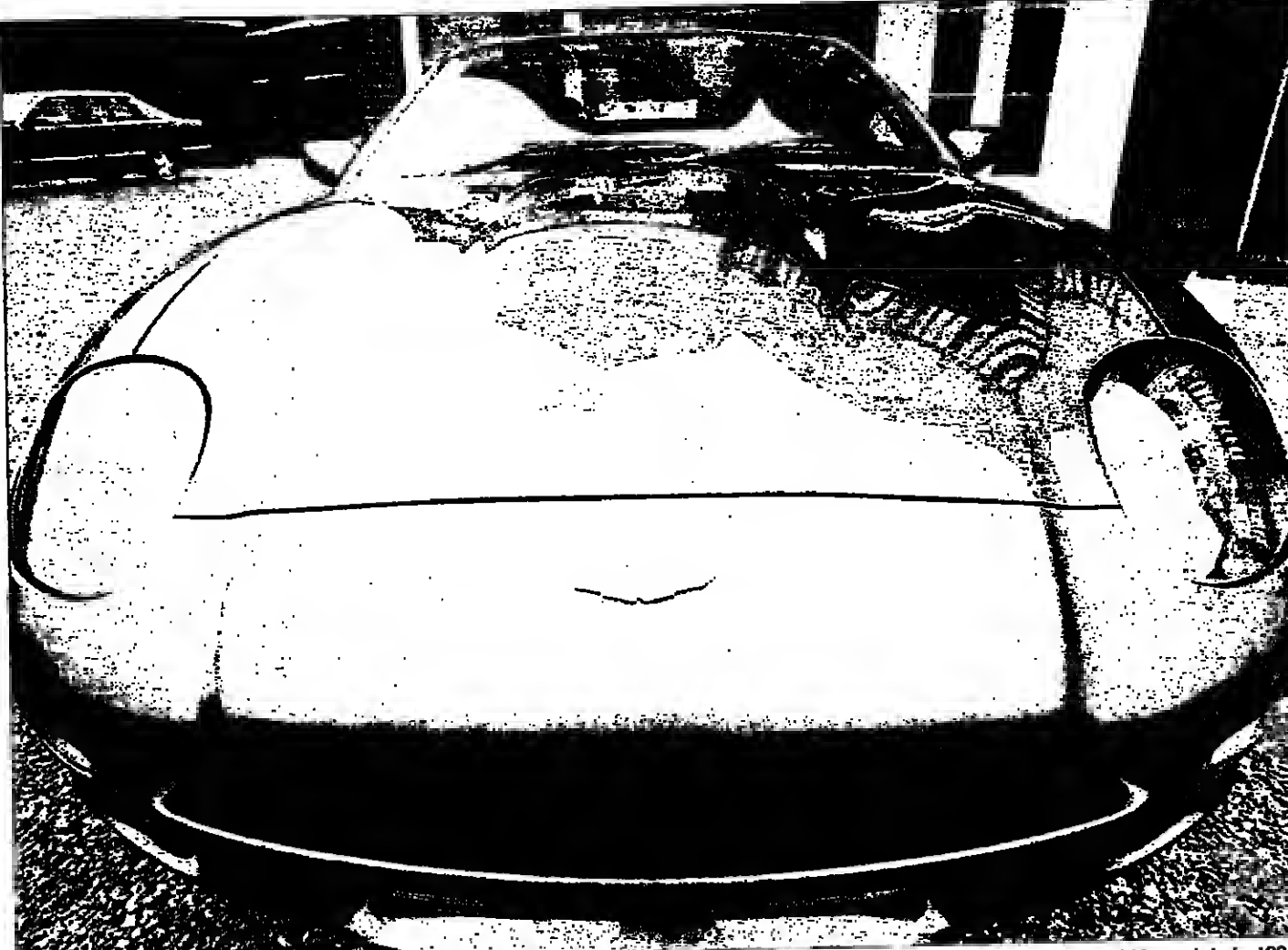
The company expects sales of about 1,200 this year, not ideal, but approaching the objective of a stable 1,500 annually.

Mr Gaskell adds: "We don't want the boom times back again. We have learned from that lesson. We want to appeal to a stable market and make to profit on the cars we sell."

Meanwhile, Aston Martin Lagonda, that great old British motoring institution and provider of Bond cars, was barely making a profit — even during the boom.

Then Ford bought the company in 1987. It seemed a bizarre move to buy a manufacturer of a tiny range of the most specialist and elitist cars. The company remained low profile until the inspired decision to put Walter Hayes, a former right-hand man to Henry Ford II and a retired Ford director, at the Aston Martin helm.

He brought in a team of young Ford managers and started up a line of new products. The result a



The sleek new Aston Martin DB7, out this autumn, is already sold out until April. The company expects to sell 850 models in 1995

new car, the DB7, due to launch this autumn, and the production quota until April is already sold out. Production is expected to jump from 150 cars annually to about 850 next year, providing the most convincing evidence that the market for sports car is gradually returning.

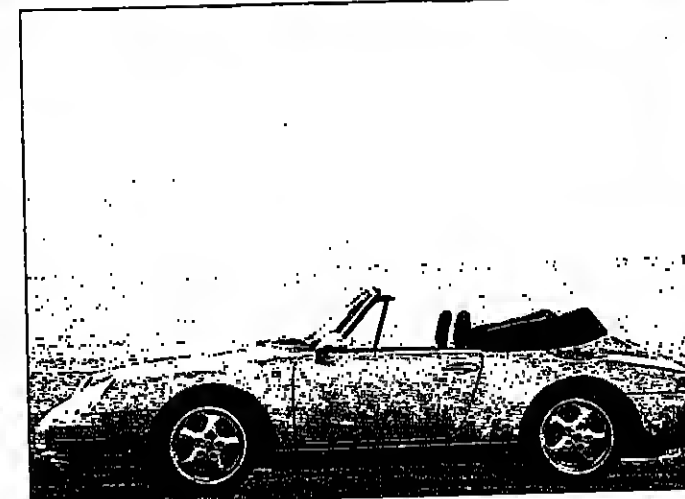
John Oldfield, the executive chairman of Aston, the smallest of the three players, is realistic about the company's prospects for the future. He says: "We have no illusions. Our cars have to be very good to find their place in the market, even though there is evidence that buyers for sports cars are returning."

Lotus, once the doyen of Formula One and synonymous with the English sports car, has been to hell and back, according to its sales

figures. Without the little Elan series, sales have slumped from 289 in the first seven months of last year to 127 this year — only one car was sold in July.

Sold off by General Motors and separated from its Grand Prix operation, the future looked bleak for Lotus. But Bugatti, the new owner, is bristling with plans for the future and a wider range of cars which is likely to include a successor to the old Lotus 7.

The total production of Ferrari, Porsche and Aston Martin Lagonda is barely a pinprick on the global sales map, and the comeback is a cautious one — but one that will be welcomed by all enthusiasts who love the sight of a growling sports car built with loving care rather than the robots of mass production.



A snip: the Porsche 911 Carrera Cabriolet, from £59,995

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GARDENING

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, returns to tackle that after-holiday tidying job

Bare necessity for a trellis

Returning home after ten days holiday on the island of Mull was a sobering experience. Most of my garden looks tired and ragged, and unless I tidy it up we are on the downhill slide into autumn gloom. The perennial brown patch on the lawn where the children, Wyndham and Piers, have their batting crease has two or three large companions brought on by the very dry summer, and a couple of roses are adorned with the white flowers of bindweed.

However there is one area which is at its peak, as a result of action taken earlier this summer. In late May I lopped back the burgeoning lavender to reveal two excellent penstemons (small, forget-me-like flowers) planted last year, the pink and white flowered 'Apple Blossom' and the pale pink 'Hidcote Pink'. Unfortunately, the lopping also revealed a large patch of bare earth in my spectacle-shaped bed.

To hide this, I installed a trellis pillar, similar to the one erected earlier this year in our island bed, and adorned it with the climber *Clematis viticella* 'Etoile de Hollande'. which has deep violet-coloured flowers. The identical pillars make handsome ornaments, the mauve flowers blooming on the newly installed pillar contrasting with the white-flowered *Splachnum asperifolium* 'Album' on the other.

Many people regard the viticella as rather rare, compared to the more commonly grown *montana* and *floribunda* varieties. But with their small, intensely coloured flowers, which appear between July and September, and vigorous growth, they are rewarding to grow. They flower on new wood and, therefore, should be pruned right back to two short stems in the spring (after any danger of hard frost has passed). 'Etoile de Hollande' is one of the most profuse flowerers; even my young plant has a mass of bloom.

Beside the new pillar I have planted one of my favourite late-summer flowering shrubs, *Ceratostigma willmottianum*. The other most commonly grown *ceratostigma* is *C. plumbaginoides*. This small family of shrubs is sometimes referred to as "hardy plumbago". The blue flowers, which appear from late July through into the autumn, are reminiscent of plumbago, but smaller and a darker, more intense blue.

C. willmottianum, which will grow into a medium-sized shrub up to 3ft tall, produces its flowers in small clusters on the ends of leafy stems. The diamond-shaped pale green leaves have attractive, reddish-brown edging and as the flowers begin to cease in autumn, the foliage turns a striking red. *C. willmottianum* often dies back during a cold winter and 'trimming off its stems in spring is important to encourage new growth.

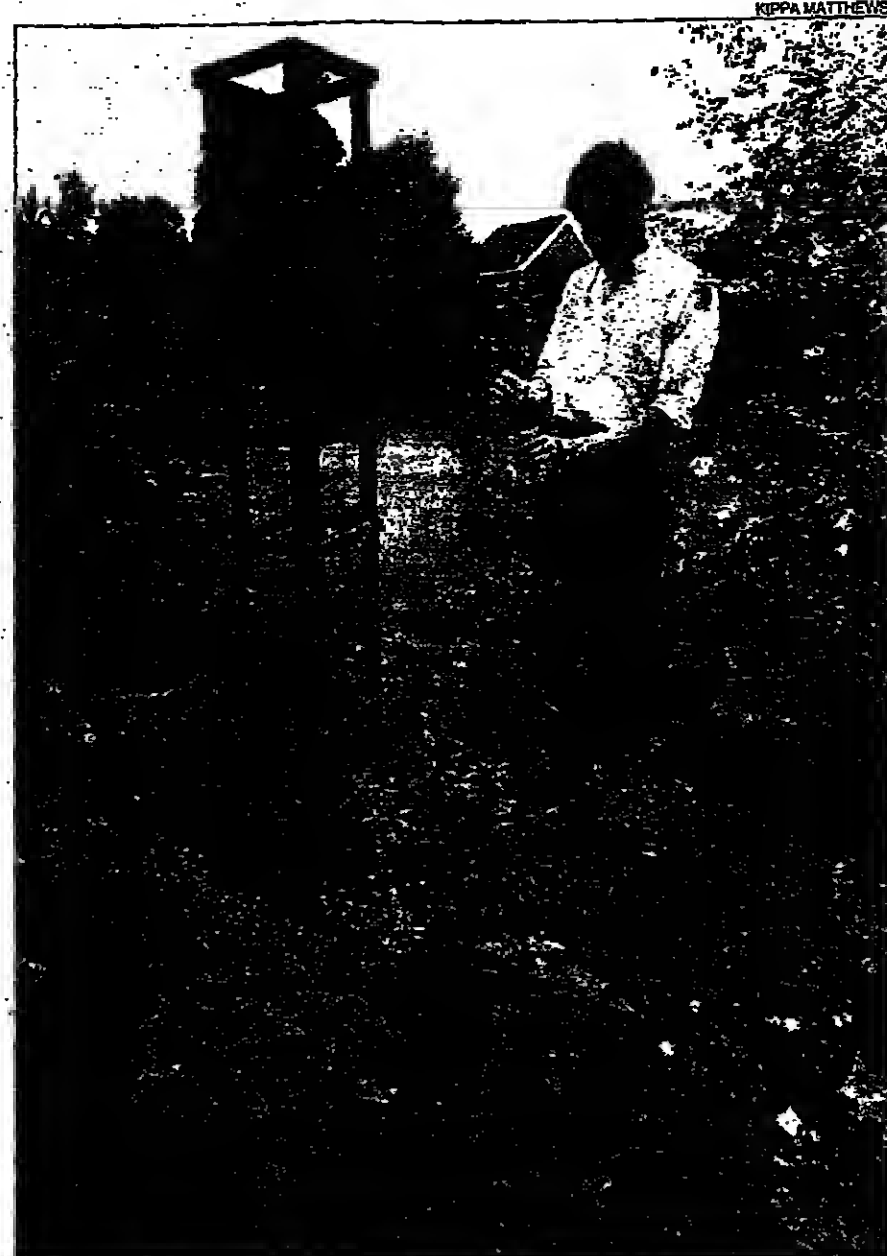
A few weeks ago I wrote about salvias being invaluable for late-summer colour, and those that I have planted in this border prove the point. The tall *Salvia uliginosa* already adds height close to the trellis pillar and its delicate blue flowers complement the deep purple of the *Clematis* 'Etoile de Hollande' and the burgundy of the *C. 'Rouge Cardinal'*. Closer to the front is a group of the smaller *Salvia nemorosa*, with brilliant, crimson-red flowers and pineapple-scented leaves. The red flowers are offset by the almost black-purple flowers of three *Cosmos atrosanguineus* I have planted beside them. Almost every nursery I know that lists the cosmos, a perennial, recommends it. Its deep-coloured flowers which grow on the end of long stems are chocolate-scented, but more important is the way they continue to appear, often without break from late June into November. Like the *Salvia nemorosa*, the cosmos grows to about 2ft tall; its only possible weakness is that it is not always hardy in cold winters.

The dark shade of the cosmos flowers makes a perfect foil for other colours, and I hope that, once this group of plants becomes established, I will have achieved a contrast with the red salvias on one side and the lemony-cream flowers of *Scabiosa ochroleuca* on the other. Like all scabiosa, this plant thrives in a sunny, well-drained position. Its flowers are small compared to most of the more widely grown blue-flowered varieties, but it is widely available at nurseries.

I hope that the other plants I have planted out will mature to fill out over the border and continue year after year, to brighten up that post-holiday despondency which so often afflicts gardeners.



Clematis 'Rouge Cardinal'



George Plumptre with one of the pillars he devised for climbers to help hide a bare area

WEEKEND TIPS

- Plant spring bulbs, such as daffodils and crocus. If you have ordered the bulbs by mail order, open the bags on arrival to stop them rotting.
- Grassy banks and other areas already planted with bulbs should be kept mown so that the plants can grow strongly as they appear in late winter.
- A wide range of shrubs and herbaceous perennials can be propagated at this time of the year by taking cuttings of non-flowering shoots.
- This is a good time to kill the grass around young trees by applying a smothering organic mulch or, if necessary, spraying with Round-up.
- Main crop onions are ready for lifting and laying out to ripen before storing. Tie them by the shoots into clumps and hang in a dry, well-ventilated place.

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

- Q** Thinking of next spring, I want to go to town with tulips and plant some of the blacks and pinks together. Can you recommend some varieties? — Mrs R. MacDonald, Chobham, Surrey.
- A** 'Queen of Night' is probably the best almost-black tulip to grow. Match it with pinks such as 'Queen of Burgundy' or 'Clara Butt', together with the perennial wallflower 'Douglas Bader' which has dark, bloomy stems which blend well with black tulips. The wallflower 'Douglas Bader' is pink with similar stems, but it might just be a little early to mix with 'Queen of Night' or 'Black Swan'. 'Black Parrot' is a splendid tulip, with frilled and feathered petals. All grow to about 24in tall except 'Douglas Bader' which is usually a little shorter.
- Q** I have a lot of bindweed in my garden. I dig out what I can but it is deep-rooted and breaks off to grow again. It even runs into the lawns. How can I kill it? — Olive Harrop, Wootton Bridge, Isle of Wight.
- A** Regular applications of glyphosate (Round-up or Tumbleweed) will kill bindweed. It will also kill the plants in your border if it gets on the leaves, so insert tall canes into the infested area and pull the trails of bindweed across to them so that they can climb up.
- When the canes are well covered, mix up some glyphosate in a bucket and, using a rubber glove, dip your hand in the solution, shake off the drops, and rub your hand up and down the bindweed leaves on the canes. After two to three weeks the stems will die back, and more will appear. The operation needs repeating for a year or two to overcome it.
- For really bad infestations, it may be better to clear the border of plants first, so that you can dig out every scrap of the weed before starting with weedkillers. In that case, you could use the total weedkiller sodium chlorate (if there are no trees or shrubs around to be poisoned).
- Q** Each year my clump of *Alstroemeria* gets larger and the flowers fewer. It is in a sunny position in a lightish alkaline soil and receives regular feeding. How can I encourage bloom, or should I dig it out and start all over again? — C.R.K. Perkins, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
- A** Old clumps of *Alstroemeria aurantiaca*, the orange Peruvian lily, usually flower best around the edges. At the centre of root congestion the fat, white roots build up into a solid mass of live and dead matter, making water penetration difficult. It is also a very persistent root and difficult to remove entirely.
- Dig round the patch, removing the root back to a suitably sized area, before it smother other plants. Then dig over the patch to a spade's depth, disposing of the roots on a bonfire, and give the area a heavy mulch of old compost or manure.
- Q** Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

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FAMILY CRUISES: With so much on offer, life on the *Canberra* can be as frenetic or relaxing as you please

The saline solution to stress

As a fellow passenger remarked, "A cruise is essentially sea air punctuated by good food". Both were in plentiful supply on board the *Canberra*. For nine days we savoured pollution-free breezes, admired spectacular sunsets (but never managed the sunrises), and soaked up sunshine while hiding behind factor 25. We devoured three meals a day, interspersed with mid-morning ice-creams and even squeezed in an occasional homemade cream tea.

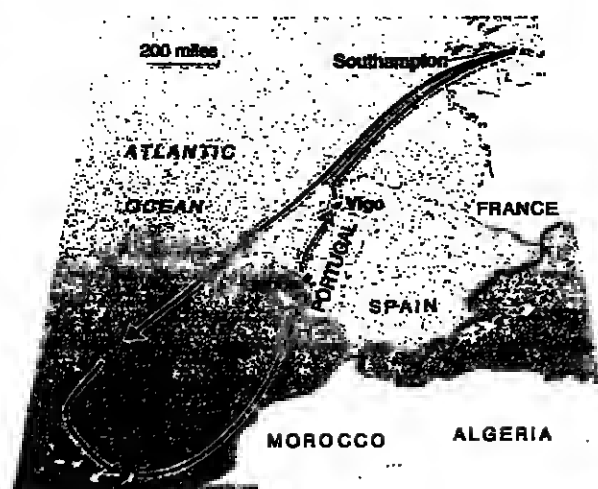
Never having cruised before, we were not certain what to expect. Images of 1930s sophistication — white dinner jackets, crisply starched shirts and slinky evening gowns — were deflated by warnings from friends and colleagues that we might encounter an atmosphere more akin to *Hi-Di-Hi* on water than Poirot and companions floating elegantly down the Nile. In the event, both elements were present but what we discovered was that you can make a cruise into the kind of holiday that suits you best.

What we opted for was utter relaxation interrupted by a few brief forays ashore. Life on board is so easy that even the most committed, workaholic learns to unwind. From the moment your luggage is delivered to your air-conditioned cabin, you need do nothing more strenuous than make the trip to the restaurants three times a day, and even then lifts save you the bother of using the stairs. All food and entertainment are included in the cost and any extras — drinks, tours, shopping or beauty treatments — can be paid for with an onboard credit card. Cash is redundant.

P&O's "Summer Gold", a nine-night cruise, began at Southampton with streamers and a brass band on the quayside. From Southampton, the *Canberra* sailed through the Atlantic to Madeira, the Canary Islands, returning via Lisbon and Vigo. A week's supply of seasickness tablets lay untouched at the bottom of my bag. The sea was calm and the great white liner, steadied by stabilisers, scarcely seemed affected by the elements. One of the incidental pleasures of the voyage was spotting a small whale swimming slowly alongside the ship. It was a far cry from the retching horrors of our last channel ferry crossing.

Family cruises are growing in popularity. More than 25 per cent of the 1,680 passengers sailing to the Canaries were under 18, and the liner laid on a night nursery, children's tea parties and supervised activities for the under-11s.

The special theme for our cruise was football. Our son, 14, probably one of the few



teenagers in the UK to have no interest in the World Cup, still enjoyed a couple of practice sessions hosted by football notables, Alan Hansen and Peter Osgood. He also dipped in and out of activities for 11 to 18-year-olds in Club Canberra, which included table tennis, a general knowledge quiz, and a scavenger hunt, while his sister, ten, played deck rounders and swayed under a limbo pole in the Junior Club. Both were also just as happy to sunbathe, read and swim in one of the three pools on deck. Like them, we preferred floating down on reclining deck chairs to participating in some of the more strenuous activities on offer.

We did rouse ourselves every few days to shake off our sea legs on shore. The first port of call was Madeira, an enchanting island covered by a profusion of forests, flowers and plants and warmed by the Gulf Stream. The coach tour we chose took us careering round hairpin bends flanked by vertiginous drops until we reached one of the high, jagged peaks of Madeira's central mountain range, a superb viewpoint from which we gazed down on clouds way below us. The descent was precarious and exhilarating. We braved the famous toboggan run above the capital, Funchal. The "toboggans", large double-seated wicker chairs on metal runners, are pulled and pushed down perilous, hilly cobbled streets by two white-funnelled, boatered locals. One of our guides looked so ancient and fragile that we gave him a substantial tip at the bottom of the run out of sheer relief that we — and he — had arrived intact.

Another afternoon was spent on the tiny, barren island of Funchal. One corner of the red, lunar landscape on this most easterly of the Canary Islands has been clawed back from nature and planted with carefully nur-

tured palm trees and holiday accommodation. We basked on a vast, man-made golden beach surrounded by row upon row of well-baked, half-naked Germans.

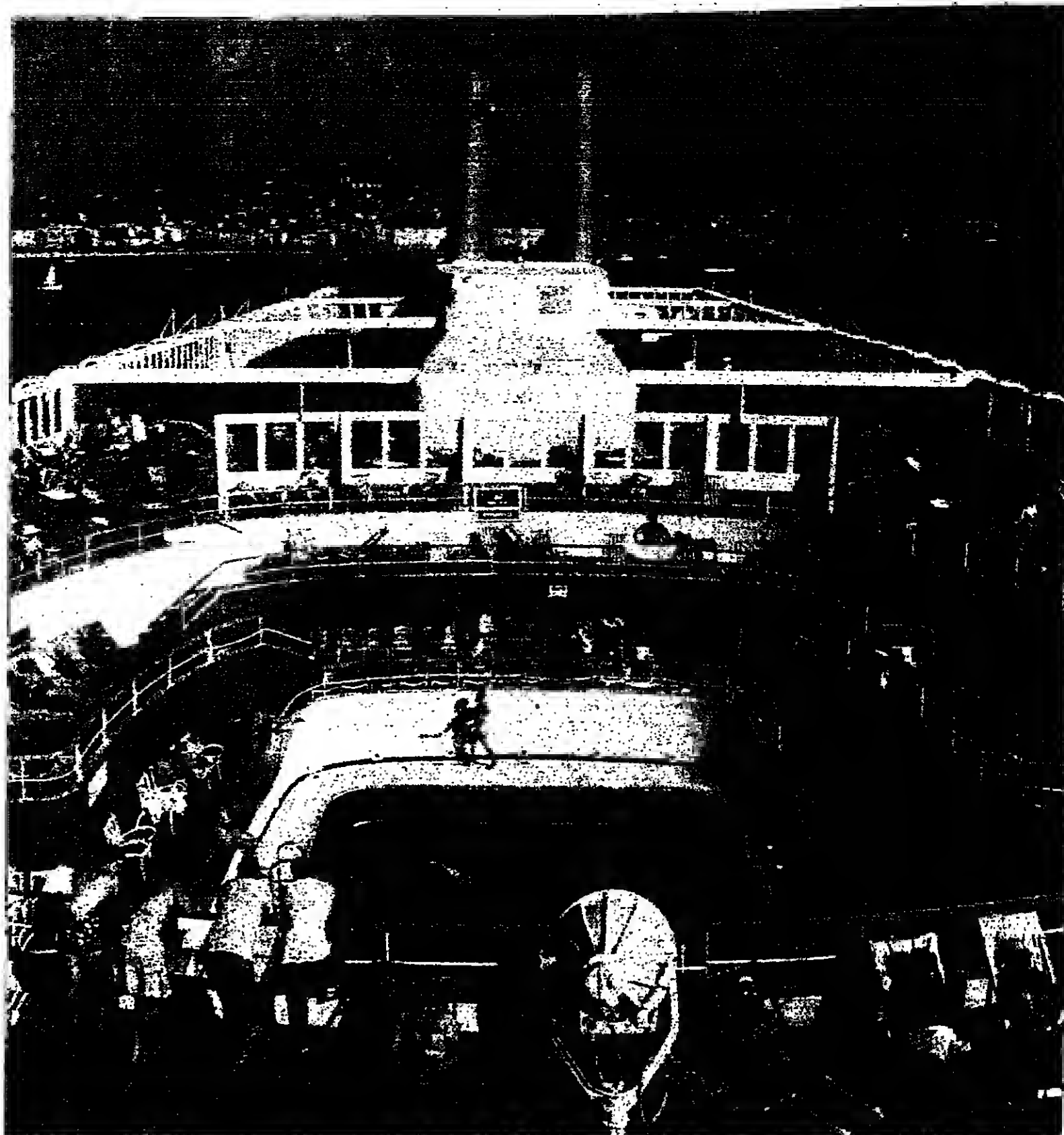
The guided excursion we opted for in Lisbon consisted of a whistle-stop tour of a monastery, museum and tropical garden. My husband loved every minute while I ached for a good restaurant and a stroll around the shops in Lisbon's fine city centre.

P&O excels in communication. Once we had selected our tours from the brochure, lecturer Alan Robertson gave illustrated talks on each destination and we were issued with a written guide to all stop-off points. Every evening cabin stewards delivered a newsletter containing not only information about disembarkation procedures, but also an hour-by-hour breakdown of the day's events on board.

For more sociable and energetic passengers than us, there was always a myriad of activities catering for all tastes from cricket or golf practice, black-jack, roulette or bridge to bingo, the morning singalong or handicrafts. There were movies and musicals, discos and dances, manoures and pedicures — and then there was the food.

Lunch included a different curry each day, a reminder of P&O's links with the Raj. Dinner could stretch to seven courses with local delicacies, such as the succulent espada fish taken on board at Madeira, or on the menu. The only real disappointment was the coffee, a casualty of ancient, out-dated machines.

Given sufficient notice, the galley will cater for virtually any special dietary requirement. The *Canberra* resembles a floating hotel and three of its 13 decks are devoted to the storage of food. During a tour of the store rooms we spotted gluten-free flour, soya milk and kosher ice-cream. Each morning at breakfast a senior waiter would come to our table to have a discussion



No longer the prerogative of the wealthy or the middle classes, cruising now appeals to a broad section of the population

Like a floating luxury hotel, the *Canberra* offers mouth-watering specialities on the menu

THE *Canberra* takes on board around 120,000 tons of stores in Southampton for an average two-week cruise. Some 105,000 meals are prepared in the galley using:

11 tons meat
4 tons fish
6 tons poultry and game
5 tons frozen fruit and vegetables
63,000 eggs
3 tons butter and cheese
7 tons flour
2 tons sugar
2,500 tons ice-cream
16 tons potatoes
68 lambs are used every time lamb appears on the menu

42,000 pastries and cakes are made
91,000 bread rolls and 6,000 4lb loaves are baked
19,500 menus are printed for the three meals a day

The 1600 passengers and 800 crew consume around:
29,500 cans of beer
1,300 bottles whisky
25,000 bottles of minerals
3,000 bottles of white wine
600 bottles red wine
400 litre bottles cognac

A desalination plant on board purifies nearly 520 tons of sea water a day for passengers' use.

A TYPICAL DINNER MENU

Scottish Smoked Salmon with Lemon and Capers
Chicken Liver Pâté with Melba Toast

Consommé Chevreux d'Anges
Stilton and Leek Soup

Filet of Halibut St Germaine
Champagne Sorbet

Broccoli and Cauliflower Mornay
Filet of Beef Wellington and Madeira Sauce

Honey-Roasted Duck with Sesame Seed and Black Bing Cherries

Buttered Mangel-Tout
Carrots Vichy
Poulet Neuf and Marquise Potatoes

Fresh Strawberries and Cream
Crème Brûlée
Fresh Fruit Salad

Vanilla, Chocolate and Pistachio
Almond Ice-Creams
Sweet Sauces: Butterscotch, Chocolate, Melba

English and Continental Cheeses
Fresh Fruit; Croute Monsieur

Tea; Petits Fours; Coffee

with our daughter, a vegetarian, and the two would plan her meals for that day. She was delighted by this special attention.

Although puddings with custard remain the most popular desserts, the trend is towards healthier living, with the emphasis on salads and fresh fruit. Passengers and crew may manage to puff their way through around 400,000 cigarettes on an average two-week cruise, and some of the lounges do become uncomfortably smoke-filled as the day progresses, but the *Canberra* now stocks only a third of the amount of tobacco it did 25 years ago.

Like the food, the service is commendable. Each waiter looks after no more than eight diners. Most waiters, cabin stewards and crew members come from the Indian sub-continent. Many are fourth or fifth generation P&O employees, their fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers having served before them. Our waiter, Cleto, may not have spoken fluent English but he was unfailingly courteous and never got an order wrong.

Of the *Canberra*'s two formal restaurants, the Pacific is smaller and, more to the point, it is where the captain eats. Allocation to the restaurants is determined by the location of your cabin and it is worth noting that passengers who occupy cabins to the fore, and this includes the premier cabins, eat in the Pacific Restaurant.

On certain days passengers are requested to dine in formal attire. As my husband and I do not possess a tuxedo or cocktail dress between us, we wondered if we might be out of place. According to Captain Ian Gibb, some passengers

still have fond memories of cruising in the era of sartorial elegance and enjoy dressing up in full regalia, although he assured us that it was acceptable just to dress smartly. But my husband later admitted that he felt uncomfortable being one of only three men not wearing a dinner jacket.

The atmosphere on board is now more casual than it once was. Cruising has lost its exclusivity. First and second class travel have been replaced by a wide range of cabins across the price system. The *Canberra*'s most expensive fare (excluding world cruises) is £94,520 per adult for a luxury suite on a 37-night holiday to Hong Kong. At the other end of the scale, fares in the most economical four-berth cabins start at £575 for a

cruise around the Norwegian fjords. No longer the prerogative of the wealthy or the middle classes, cruising now appeals to a broad cross-section of the population.

Another sign of more informal times are the buffet breakfasts and lunches. Stringent health and hygiene regulations have ensured that queues in a stainless steel self-service restaurant have taken the place of passengers selecting courses from elegant buffet tables. The food is still plentiful, if less glamorously presented, and salad dressings and sauces now come in sachets rather than sauce boats.

Cruising can become addictive once you have learned which are the best cabins, where to eat and how to

circumvent any holiday camp element on board. We met families returning for their ninth or tenth cruise. The former Dean of Harvard Divinity College apparently spends three or four months every year on the *Canberra*.

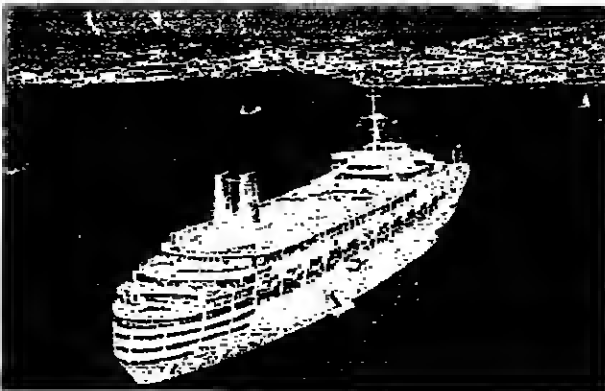
According to P&O, the *Canberra*'s sister ship, the *Sea Princess*, is better suited to those preferring "a dash more sophistication". In 1995, both ships will be joined by the *Oriana*, a liner specifically designed and built for the British cruise market. The *Oriana* will have capacity for more than 2,500 people and, according to its architect, "will be very much a ship of the 1990s" with all the atmosphere of the *Canberra*.

SARA DRIVER



Cruise costs

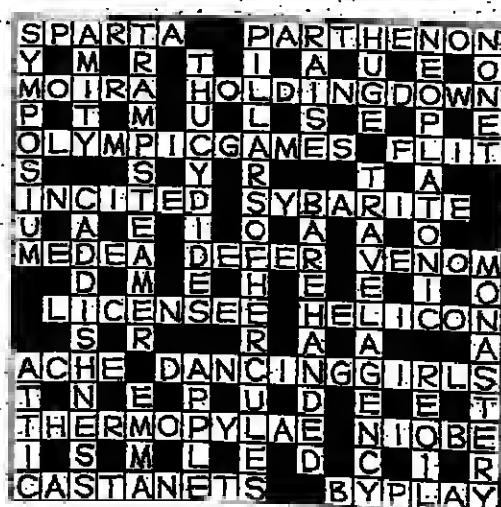
- The author and her family travelled on the *Canberra* courtesy of P&O, 77 New Oxford St, London WC1 1PP 071-800 2222.
- Prices for a nine-night cruise start at around £1,685 for an outside, two-berth cabin with en-suite shower and lavatory.
- There are discounts available for children using third or fourth berths in two-berth cabins: 20 per cent for under twos, 15 per cent for 11 years, 10 per cent for 12-16 years.



Do's and don'ts of cruising

- Book cabins in the fore end. Opt for decks A, B or C. Avoid cabins near the disco in the Alice Springs lounge.
- Eat in the Pacific Restaurant. Book the 6.45pm sitting if travelling with children because this gives them time for any of the evening activities.
- Visit the library early — the shelves are quickly emptied.
- Decide in advance what you need in the way of foreign currency/traveller's cheques so as to cut down on visits to the Purser's/Information Office, where queues are lengthy.
- Don't rush out especially to buy a ballgown or black tie — a smart dress and suit are acceptable.

SOLUTION TO THE TIMES CROSSWORD CHALLENGE (2)



THE WINNER of the second Times Crossword Challenge published between August 13 and 19, was Barbara Skimmer, of Tonbridge, Kent. She wins a Club Med holiday for two to Corfu. The six winners of £100 of traveller's cheques, courtesy of The Travel Bureau, were: Jane Mee, of Worcester; Stephen Lay, of Canterbury; Kent Mr R. Williams, of Wigan; Lancashire Mrs Stanley Smith, of London SW6; Ian Knox, of Coventry; and Mr T. Payne, of Tavistock, Devon.

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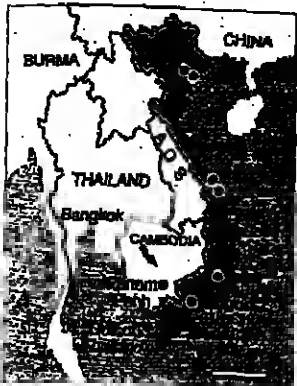
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VIETNAM: Twenty years after the Americans left, the hard-pressed population is bustling with enterprise

Miss Saigon and you'll always regret it



Phong waited outside the Rex Hotel in the middle of Saigon. Like almost everyone else in town, Phong was sitting on his little Honda. Most of Saigon's five million people own a Honda, and they all seem to take them out at the same time. A few years ago, Saigon (only real diehards still call it Ho Chi Minh City) was still in the "Age of the Cycle", the bicycle rickshaw. In a few years it will enter the "Age of the Motorcar", but for the moment, the city is in the "Age of the Motorcycle". By far the best and most authentic way to see Saigon is, therefore, from the back of a Honda. Phong's Honda. He charges \$1 an hour. We set off.

"How much does a Honda cost, Phong?" "A new one, Honda Dream, 70cc, \$2,000. Mine was second hand: \$800." The official average wage in Vietnam is \$200 a year. Phong bought his Honda a year ago, when he was still working as a tour guide for the state on around 100,000 dong a week (about \$10).

"How did you find the money then, Phong?" "I saved up," he grinned. So, the black market is thriving healthily.

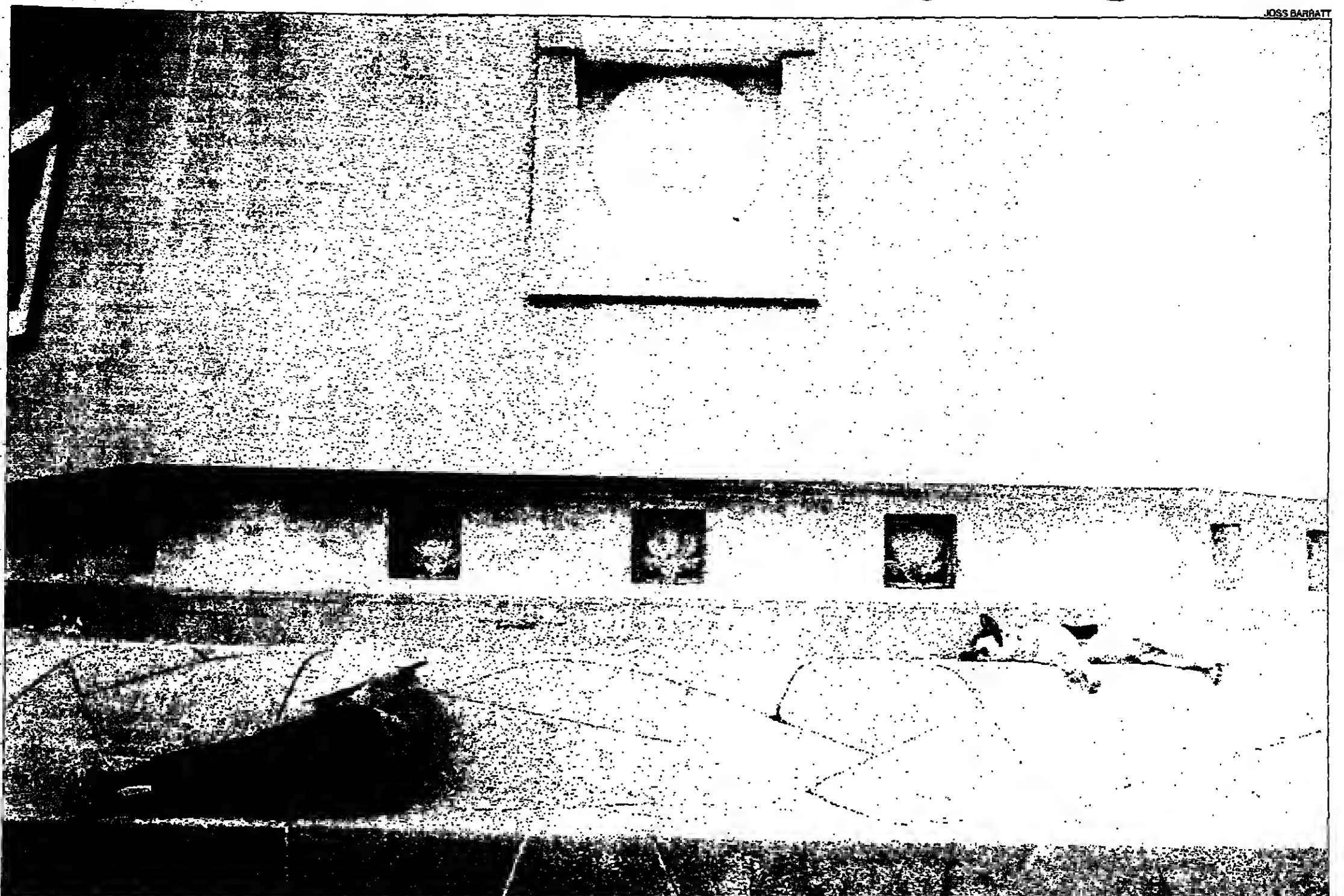
The driver tried to sell me a Coke, a 14-year-old and an old Times within 500 yards

So is smuggling. So are the remnants from the two million expatriate Vietnamese. So are the unofficial bullion savings of Saigon's one million ethnic Chinese. Vietnam is still a poor country, but it is not nearly so poor as the statistics suggest.

Phong takes me to the poorest part of town, District 4, down by the river. Make no mistake, it's a dump, it stinks. It's so overcrowded that Phong can't get above 3mph, but the place is a hive, alive with the very pleasing sound of people making more money than they have ever made before. Here, you can see why Vietnam is tipped as the next Asian "tiger" economy. I imagine Manchester was like this in about 1825, only colder, less colourful, and here the exploitation is more often than not self-inflicted. I met one family making shoes. Cost price: 800 dong; sale price: 1,000 dong; profit: about 10% — but you've got to start somewhere, and the Vietnamese, especially the Saigonese, have got off to a flying start since the government abandoned many economic and legal controls on the free market in 1989.

Next, we phoned our way right down to the river banks to the place where the junkies come in from the delta, stacked three deep, and a huge floating home for countless peasant families while they wait what looks like the world's supply of bananas direct on to the quay.

The Vietnamese don't make much mention of what they call the American War. What with the French War, the Chinese War, the Cambodian War and the Economic War, they're a bit fed up with wars, even though they always win them. Well, the north Viet-



Taking time out from the city bustle in a back street temple in District 4, the poorest part of Saigon. "It's a dump, it stinks, it's overcrowded, but the place is alive with the sound of people making money"

namese won't. The southern Vietnamese, as the young Western tourists — raised on Stallone, Coppola and Stone — begin to flock in, make money out of them.

Phong drove to the relevant place, Dan Sinh market. If you're sad enough to want to own a Zippo, with "Danang '68, The Lost Year" scratched on one side and "When I kill, all I feel is recoil" scratched on the other, then here is where you can get one. You'll pay about \$12 for a real one, and \$7 for a fake, or, more cynically — there can't have been that many CIs who quit smoking just as they left for home — \$12 will buy you a good fake. \$7 a bad one. They used to be cheaper, but a French chap turned up last year and bought 2,000 for \$4,000, probably sold like hot croissants to bandannaed youths in Montparnasse. Most of the "war surplus" must, actually, be counterfeit — it is 20 years since the Americans left — but while the desire exists, then the craftsmen of Saigon will provide, and such rumours as the one about picking up a 1965 Harley still in its crate for \$500 will always persist.

Next, we zipped up to Cholon — Chinatown. I confirmed the impression that the entire population of south-east Asia has moved to Saigon and spends all day buying and selling each other various bits and pieces. I also confirmed that Vietnamese roads become unforgiving after an hour or two on a motorbike pillion. I said goodbye to Phong, and hailed a cycle. The driver tried to sell me a Coke, a 14-year-old and a four-day-old copy of *The Times* in 500 yards, then he shut up and pedalled and I read the paper. The sex barons of Bangkok are trying to break into Saigon, and the cycle drivers are the worst pumps.

He dropped me at my hotel, a faded colonial, sparsely furnished, superb. I stayed at two hotels in Saigon, about 100 yards apart. The Saigon Floating Hotel provides probably the most expensive bed in town. Nice place, but I preferred this one, the Dong Khoi, on Dong Khoi street (true Catania in *The Quiet American*) which costs \$10 a night — the fabulous French architecture and atmosphere come free. It is definitely the place to stay if you get to Saigon, and you should get to Saigon — and soon — because your money might as well enrich and change and perhaps spoil the place as anybody else's.

ROBERT CRAMPTON



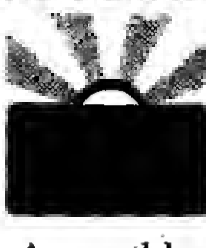
The economy got off to a flying start when the government abandoned market controls

THE TIMES HOLIDAY PLANNER

● **ILLIE** Nastase, Johan Kriek, Roy Emerson and others will be playing in the St Lucia Tennis Open from December 12 to 18 and holding free tennis clinics for guests of the Club St Lucia. A week from December 11 costs from £749 all-inclusive, flying from Gatwick, through Tropical Places (0342 825123).

● **THE** mountainous, Spanish-speaking Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two thirds of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, which it shares with Haiti. A fortnight's holiday over Christmas with Thomson (071-707 9000) costs £1,045, including all meals and flights from Gatwick or Manchester. One child, aged two to 11, pays half, a second 90 per cent.

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● **ELEGANT** Resorts (0244 329671) offers a week at Little Dix Bay in the British Virgin Islands for £1,230 half-board until October 22 (a saving of £490). Flights are with British Airways from Gatwick.

● **SKIERS** willing to drive to their apartment qualify for a £60 discount at selected resorts if the holiday is booked by October 31 through Stena Sealink (0233 647033).

SUSAN GROSSMAN

How to get there

□ The author flew from London to Hong Kong and Saigon, Vietnam as a guest of Cathay Pacific (071-747 8888) and Gold Medal Travel Group (0253 791100).
□ Cathay Pacific flies daily to Hong Kong from Heathrow. If you require same-day connections to Saigon, you would need to travel on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. Prices vary according to date of



travel — for example, if you travel in October the cost is £1,061 return, while travelling in November it is £941 return. □ Gold Medal Travel Group offers tailor-made, seven-day holidays to Hong Kong and Vietnam, starting at £1,443.

□ Travellers from Britain will need a visa to enter Vietnam. For further information contact the Vietnamese Embassy, 12-14 Victoria Road, London W8 5RD (071-937 1912). The office is open weekdays, closed noon to 2pm.

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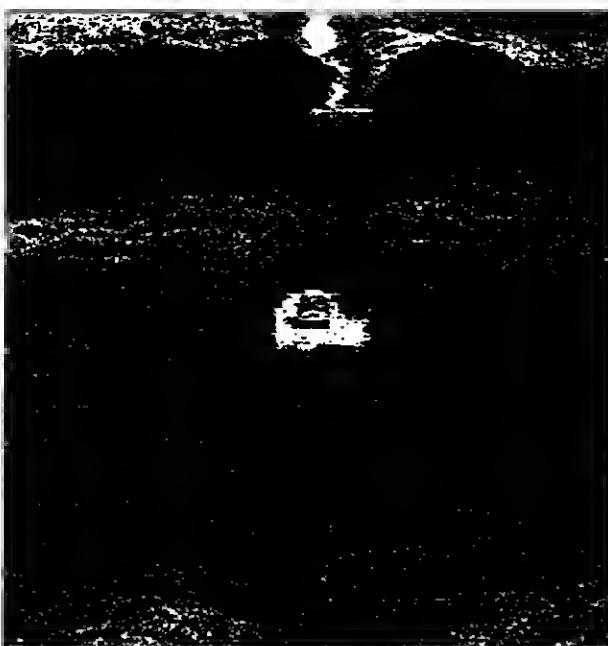
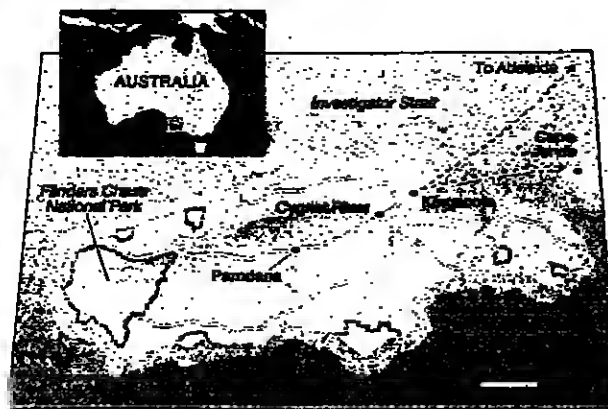


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A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a man and a young boy in a wooded area. The man is holding the boy, and both are looking down at something in the boy's hands. The image is grainy and has a stark, dramatic quality.

Andy Martin introduces his wary son, Spencer, to an over-inquisitive kangaroo

Darwinian drama on an island in the sun



The road to wildlife adventure on Kangaroo Island

A war welcome children

ANDY MARTIN

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A chill in the Vienna woods

ed during the Second World War by the Nazis, who had turned it into an underground aircraft factory, where slave labour from the concentration camps assembled the fuselages of the first German jet fighters.

DEREK SEVERN

FAMILY HOTELS: Do the British really hate youngsters? Tell us your experiences and win a weekend break

Hotels where Herod is a hero

Thumbing through the pages of *The 1995 Good Hotel Guide*, to be published on Monday, one quickly forms the impression that British hoteliers are people among whom Herod probably qualifies as a folk hero. Children, in their eyes, are little more welcome than other people's dogs. Often, less welcome. While some hotels say that they are willing to accept dogs "by arrangement" they maintain a blanket ban on children.

But children, after all, cannot be left to sleep in outhouses. The nearest approach to that comes from Northfield House at Annan, in Dumfries and Galloway, whose entry in the guide states: "No children under 12 except in garden suite. Dogs in cars only."

The British assumption that children are all rug-rats and ankle-bitsers, fit only for expulsion to boarding schools, is evidently deeply ingrained. *The 1995 Good Hotel Guide* boasts a 10 per cent increase in British entries to about 500, yet its list of hotels that positively

welcome children has just 36 names. There are more British places listed that ban smokers than there are which proclaim their welcome for children.

Where the hoteliers differ is in deciding at what age children become socially tolerable. The English entries in the book start thus: "Children 2-12 discouraged" (Austria, Aldeburgh, Suffolk); "No children under 5" (Lovelady Shield, Alston, Cumbria); "No children under 10" (Grey Friar Lodge, Ambleside, Cumbria); "Children and the disabled are welcome" (Rothay Manor, Ambleside); "No children under 7" (Wateredge Hotel, Ambleside); and "No children under 12" (Undercar Manor, Appleton, Cumbria). And there are fresh barriers set at every birthday. The Albright House in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, accepts no children under three, the Sydney Gar-

dens Hotel in Bath, Avon, sets its limit at four, the Woolpack at Beckington, Somerset, at five.

Lynton House in Holdenby, Northamptonshire, installs moving goalposts: "No children under 5/6", Tanyard at Boughton Monchelsea, Kent, sticks at six, Lindeth Fell and Linthwaite House, both at Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria, select seven; The Look Out at Branscombe, Devon, is among many electing eight; Mallory Court at Bishop's Tachbrook, Warwickshire, nominates nine; Picket House at Brackenthwaite, Cumbria, takes 10; the Orchard at Bathford, Avon, and Frog Street Farm at Beeston, Somerset, are among those raising the ante to 11; Danescombe Valley Hotel, Calscott, Cornwall, with many others, tries 12; the Horn of Plenty at Guilworthy, Devon, thinks 13; and the

Wykeham Arms at Winchester, Hampshire, is among a quarter who want nothing less than 14.

The peak of this rampant distrust of youth is found at the Porlock Vale House in Porlock Weir, Somerset, itself on probation in that it only gets an italicised, provisional entry in the new guide. There the rule is: "No children under 15".

Variations on the theme are many. Chapel House at Atherstone, Warwickshire, echoes the much encountered "no dogs in public rooms". Its requirement says: "No children under eight in restaurant after 8pm". The Devonshire Arms at Bolton Abbey, Yorkshire, bans under-12s from the restaurant. The next entry, for Hartwell House, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, goes one better: "No children under 8; no under-16s in spa."

Others seem to lack the courage of

their paedophobia. Prince Hall at Two Bridges, Devon, notes sourly: "Children not encouraged". The Chapmans at Priory Steps, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, try to soften the blow: "Children not positively encouraged".

Thornbury Castle at Thornbury, Avon, is socially selective: "No children under 12 unless known." Colin House at Auchencraig, Dumfries and Galloway, says: "Well brought-up children welcome" (possibly meant to exclude most).

A more sophisticated line in ageism is introduced at Gravey Manor, West Sussex: "No children under seven except babies".

There are exceptions. The Evesham Hotel in Evesham, Worcestershire, "generally welcoming to families with small children" charges just £1.50 for each year of their age. Haley's Hotel in Leeds, the

Killiecrankie Hotel in Tayside and Oakland House in South Petherton, Somerset, will put up children free in their parents' room, and Woolley Grange at Bradford-on-Avon charges, by the room and lets parents "squeeze in as many children as they can tolerate".

The guide makes no claim to be comprehensive, and wears its prejudices on its sleeve, especially against chain hotels which often encourage children.

There are other guide books for those seeking accommodation with young families, the *Egon Ronay Ford Guide*... *And Baby Comes Too* (Macmillan, £9.99) and *The Family Welcome Guide 1994* (HarperCollins, £8.99), but the overlap between these and the *Good Hotel Guide* is appallingly scant. Can hotels that will not welcome children really claim to be "good"?

ROBIN YOUNG

© The 1995 Good Hotel Guide to Britain and Europe, edited by Hilary Rubinstein (Vernition, £12.99).

A warm welcome for children

AT THE start of the summer, *The Times* travel pages began a quest for child-friendly places to stay at home and abroad, inspired by the increasing use of that term in hotel publicity and the suspicion that in some cases it was more marketing hype than a serious statement of intent. As the school holidays draw to an end, the conclusion, reinforced by the *Good Hotel Guide* listings, must be that the B&B, once a bastion of the forbidding landlady, is making more effort to accommodate the needs of children than many a country house hotel.

On this page we feature three child-friendly finds, one self-proclaimed, one recommenda-

tion, and one chance discovery. We invite readers to let us know about their own experiences this summer, good or bad, and hope to print a selection of their stories. A prize of a family weekend at a selected hotel will go to the writer of the most engaging letter. Entries should be clear, concise and, where appropriate, amusing. Please include the address and telephone number for all establishments mentioned. We regret we cannot acknowledge every letter. Normal *Times* competition rules apply. Entries, by September 16, to: Children's Corner, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.



Unlike certain grand hotels, whose child-friendly claims fade as soon as the child has been presented with a T-shirt advertising the hotel's name, the Old Bank House, a Norfolk B&B, does not go in for gimmicks: it just specialises in being friendly to everyone.

I stayed there earlier this year, by chance, on a visit to my grandmother — my father had liked the look of the elegant red brick house in Aylsham but knew no more about it than its name and telephone number.

We fine, my husband and our children, Rose, four, and Miranda, three, arrived from London to a warm greeting from owner Enid Parry and an invitation to the children to explore the house: children have free run of a walled garden with a shallow pond and a swing; a games room in the cellar with darts, snooker and table tennis and a guest's sitting room stuffed with toys which can be taken up to the bedrooms. Rose and Miranda each had a staggeringly frilly single bed which delighted them, while my husband and I shared a two poster.

The Old Bank House, originally built in 1613, has three bedrooms, a large wooden pillared hall, a minimalist gallery and wonderfully old-fashioned bathroom. Most of the furnishings were picked up in auction rooms by Mrs Parry who leaves ornaments, books and decorations dotted around occasional tables. At breakfast, there was an array of jam pots from different eras, each filled with a different homemade marmalade or jam. The huge table was laid with pretty linen, and the full English breakfast was excellent.

A mile or so from the pretty market town of Aylsham is the fine, early-Jacobean house and gardens of Bickling Hall, a National Trust property. A 20-minute drive through lovely, undulating farm countryside dotted with flint churches and Dutch gabled cottages takes you to the seaside town of Sheringham.

Another excellent, child-friendly B&B that I discovered, with my family, earlier this year is the National Trust pub, the Spread Eagle, which is part of the 18th-century Stourhead estate in Wiltshire. The rooms are furnished like a simple country house.

JANE OWEN



Calcot Manor in the Cotswolds used to be a children's home; first under 12, then under eight. Now, with new owners, the hotel (above) even welcomes babies.

Our family suite (wicker furniture, pretty curtains and a gleaming bathroom) was one of four in a stylishly converted barn. There were bunks (in a separate room) complete with bed guard, a farm animal door stop to prevent the door swinging shut, safety plugs over the sockets, a shelf full of well-chosen children's books and, most thoughtfully, a baby stool so my daughter Savanna, two and a half, could reach the taps. The spotless bathroom had a non-slip bathmat, a changing mat, "ducky" soap and Peter Rabbit bubble bath. The four rooms shared with toys, fruit, and children's videos (automatically put on by staff at 7.30am).

My husband, Philip, and I approached dinner with some nervousness. The dining room serves serious food: a Michelin star has been awarded for the

last eight years, although there has been a recent change of chef. A highchair and a box of sticky bricks signified the baby's place, starched linen and sparkling glassware ours. Declining the home-made pizza, beans, tomato soup and quarter pounder on the children's menu, plain pasta with butter was demanded and arrived speedily — on a Peter Rabbit plate, with Peter Rabbit cutlery. Milk came in a trainer beaker, with a spoon. Before my duck liver parfait with toasted brioche arrived, our baby had handed in her bowl and set off round the tables, chattering to anyone who would listen and offering round her sticky bricks. No one seemed to mind.

Halfway through my par-fried sea bass with five-spice sauce she lay down on the floor with her legs in the air. I took the cue and bundled her straight off to bed, reassured on my return by the listening device in reception, through which I could clearly hear her sucking her thumb.

SUSAN GROSSMAN

Child-friendly places to stay

- The Old Bank House, 3 Norwich Rd, Aylsham, Norfolk (0263 733943). Adult £16 B&B, two-14 £10, under-twos free open all year except over Christmas.
- The Spread Eagle Inn, Stourton, Wilt (01747 840587). Double/twin £59, single £37, children under 14 £12 per night each.
- Calcot Manor, near Tetbury, Gloucestershire (0666 890391). £125 per night B&B for family of four (children up to 15) including tickets to Westonbirt Arboretum.
- Hollington House, Woolton Hill, near Newbury, Berkshire RG15 9XR (0635 255100). £110-£275 per night for two B&B depending on room. Weekend breaks from £180 per person for two nights dinner, B&B. Prices for children by arrangement.



Left: the Old Bank House, an elegant redbrick B&B in Aylsham, is run by Enid Parry (above), who encourages children to explore the house

HOLLINGTON

Hollington House is a lovely mansion set in a Gertrude Jekyll garden, near Newbury in Berkshire, just an hour from London but with the feel of being deep in the country. Stand on the terrace and no matter which direction you look in you cannot see another building.

A friend recommended it as a relaxing place to go for a first weekend away with our daughter Miranda (below) when she was five months old. The hotel does not boast about being child-friendly, it just likes to talk about being friendly. "Children we can take in our stride," says John Guy who runs it with his wife Penny. Perhaps because they have spent most of their time as hoteliers in Australia and have three children, there is none of that false formality that mars so many English hotels.



The room was huge and comfortable, the cot, a kettle and other baby needs were provided without hesitation, and Miranda sank smiling into the satin sheets.

But when the time came for dinner, the smiles disappeared. She wouldn't sleep, so we couldn't take advantage of the baby-listening device. Instead, feeling rather self-conscious, my wife, Anna, carried her down to the dining room to discover that she was the only child there. Through the starrer she remained quiet but as the delicious main course of duck was being served, she began to get restless. The noise soon mounted to an embarrassing level and Anna decided to retreat.

Fortunately the food did not spoil in the time it took her to soothe Miranda to sleep, and the listening service was ready to take over when she returned, so we could relax over the end of the meal. It was hardly justice for the excellent cooking, but it was enough to show that even if a hotel doesn't specifically cater for children, with an understanding attitude it can certainly make parents feel at home.

ALAN COPPS

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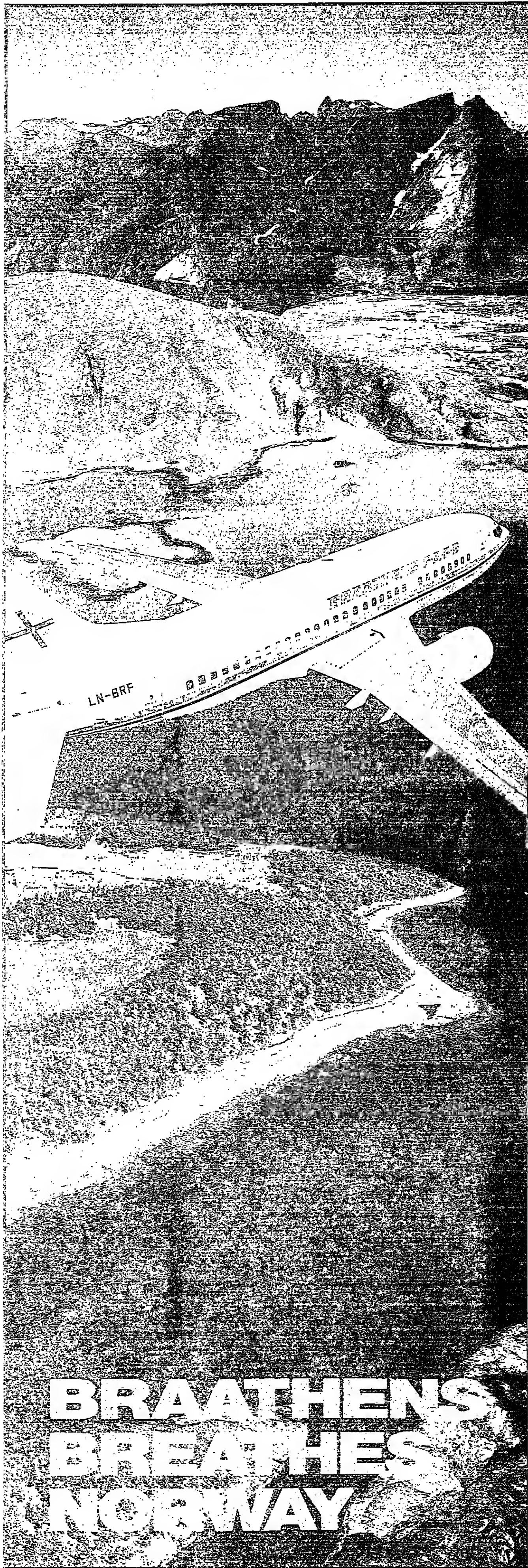
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Send to: Orient Lines (Europe) Ltd, PO Box 51, Greenwich NG31 6JU ATEL 3131

*Please note: Single cabin category upgrade is to cabins C to K inclusive. Applicable to two persons sharing a cabin. Includes 10% discount.



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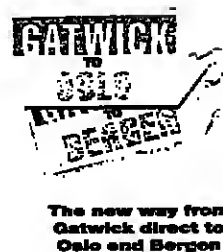
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